Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-093 *15 May 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Criticizes U.S. Veto Threat

MM1205115595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 May 95 p 4

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "'Abd-al-Majid Criticizes Washington Threat To Use Veto To Prevent Condemnation of Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo — Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has criticized the U.S. Administration's hint that it would use its veto if the UN Security Council decides to adopt a resolution condemning Israel for its seizure of Arab lands in east Jerusalem.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday 'Abd-al-Majid said that the U.S threat to use the veto would increase tension in the peace process and also strip the United States, a cosponsor of the peace process, of its neutrality in its endeavors to secure a just and comprehensive settlement to the Middle East crisis.

'Abd-al-Majid's statement was in reply to the statement made by Madeleine Albright, U.S. representative to the United Nations, in which she threatened to use the veto to prevent the Security Council from adopting any resolution condemning Israel.

'Abd-al-Majid warned that Israel will confiscate more Palestinian land if the UN Security Council does not adopt a resolution condemning these actions and compelling it to abandon the confiscation decisions and to keep the situation in Jerusalem as it stands in preparation for discussing its future at a later stage in accordance with the agreements Israel signed with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Arab League Statement Says Israel Must Join NPT

NC1305145195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—The Arab League Secretariat has affirmed that Israel must join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] so that the Treaty can realize its objective of universality, as it is the major pillar for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.

The League Secretariat issued a statement today in which it asked the international community and the two cosponsors of the peace conference to put pressure on Israel to submit its nuclear installations to the international proposals regarding the Treaty in order to preserve the credibility of these commitments and assert international respect for them.

The Secretariat said in its statement that it believes the indefinite extension of the Treaty without Israel's joining it creates an unfair situation in the Middle East region, which all Arab peoples hope will be a region of peace, stability, security, and development as well as a region free of weapons of mass destruction.

The League Secretariat referred to Security Council Resolution 5455, issued during its 103rd session on 23 March. It noted that this resolution stipulates that it will pose a danger to regional security if the Israeli nuclear program remains outside the international system for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and continues to refuse to join the NPT and to submit its nuclear installations to the guarantees system.

The Secretariat concluded its statement by saying that lack of adherence to the international community's resolution detracts from the credibility and universality of the NPT.

League Chief Meets Mubarak on Jerusalem, Comments

NC1405094295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this morning.

Dr. 'Abd-al Majid said after the meeting that the talks dealt with the general Arab situation and all the important and serious developments in the Arab region that require consultations and exchange of views.

He added: Our chief interest is the continuation of the peace process. We are eager to advance this process because we are peace advocates, but there are Israeli violations that threaten this process and affect its course.

Everybody, no doubt, is eager to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, and we hope that we will overcome the difficulties and obstacles on the way, he said.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid explained that Jerusalem was the main topic in his talks with President Mubarak. He said the issue is sensitive and has serious repercussions in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Referring to the resolutions issued by the extraordinary Arab League Council meeting on 6 May, 'Abd-al-Majid said: We are working to implement and follow up on the resolutions and evade any problems that may obstruct the peace process.

He said he listened to guidance from President Mubarak and to his views on the entire situation. He added: I will

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hold several contacts in this respect and I will continue these contacts to serve Arab interests.

Asked about the possibility of holding an emergency Arab summit to discuss Jerusalem, the Arab League secretary general said that contacts are currently underway to hold an Arab summit, even if it is a limited one. He noted his address to the Arab League Council on 6 May.

He hoped the contacts would bring good results for the Arab and Islamic nation.

He said: I sent a message to King Hassan II of Morocco in his capacity as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee and I will visit Morocco in the next few days to meet with the King and hold further consultations on this issue.

On the Arab investment conference, which will be held in Alexandria on 29 May, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the conference will be held under the umbrella of the Arab League and some Arab economic bodies. He described the conference as important and said that the economy and development are the biggest challenges the Arab world is facing.

Discusses Jerusalem With Musa

NC1405195995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening. 'Abd-al-Majid said that during the meeting they discussed Israel's latest measures in Jerusalem and the Arab stance. He said that he will visit Morocco in the next two days to discuss with King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, the possibility of holding a limited Arab summit to discuss the Arab position on these measures. He noted that talk of an agreement on convening a summit is premature and inaccurate, but that contacts are under way to discuss the possibility of convening a summit.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Said To Regret Confiscation of Jerusalem Land

JN1405194895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, and adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has said President 'Arafat regrets the Israeli Government's move to adhere to its decision to confiscate Palestinian lands in Arab Jerusalem. Kanafani said 'Arafat thinks this decision will undermine the peace process as a whole by strengthening the enemies of peace on both sides.

Kanafani said President 'Arafat knows the extent of the disappointment felt by all those seeking to achieve comprehensive peace.

Kanafani further denounced Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's decision to adhere to the illegal confiscation of land, a measure which runs counter to all international resolutions and clearly violates the spirit and letter of the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreements.

Kanafani said: Rabin is giving priority to his own political interest and that of the Labor Party in the next election over the interest of peace. This option is neither wise nor responsible.

Al-Tibi Reacts to Israeli Decision on Expropriation

TA1405124195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Referring to the cabinet decision on the land expropriation issue, 'Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu-Rudaynah says that land expropriation serves the extremists alone and contradicts the agreement with the PLO, according to which the Jerusalem issue will be discussed within the framework of the permanent arrangement talks.

Ahmad al Tibi warns of the danger that the Oslo process will collapse. The two spoke with our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Qaddumi Reacts to Land Seizure, Embassy Proposal

JN1405124895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1110 GMT 14 May 95

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, "foreign minister and chief of the PLO Political Department," by unidentified correspondent; place and dae not given; from "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Brother Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-al-Lutf, Palestinian foreign minister and chief of the PLO Political Department. You are welcome on the Voice of Palestine.

[Qaddumi] Thank you.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, the issue of Jerusalem now comes at the top of Arab, Islamic, and world concerns as a result of the provocative step taken by Israel recently to expropriate 53 hectares of Jerusalem's lands. In your capacity as the chief of Palestinian diplomacy, what steps are you taking to confront this new Israeli challenge?

[Qaddumi] The first step was to hold an Arab meeting to reach a unified Arab stand. The fact is that the

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Arab League Ministerial Council made decisions in this regard. The Arab League Council called for a Security Council session and decided to contact the permanent Security Council members, the cosponsors of the peace process, and the international community. Furthermore, we met with every permanent member of the Security Council, beginning with the United States. We also contacted European countries and friends throughout the world. We instructed our offices to contact the various ministries to fully explain the situation. We also issued official statements to show that Israel does not seek peace and that it has begun to marginalize this peace by refusing to implement the agreements and by carrying out practices that are contrary to the bases of the political settlement.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, the Security Council will convene tomorrow amid reports that the United States will veto any draft resolution condemning Israel. Is there any Arab-Islamic-international coordination to defend the issue of Jerusalem during the Security Council meeting tomorrow? And how can we tackle this issue?

[Qaddumi] The issue of Jerusalem is important. Regrettably, Mr. Dole, the leader of the Republican majority in the U.S. Congress, has also called for moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. Since the beginning, America has been biased toward Israel. If the United States, which is a sponsor of the political settlement, vetoes any resolution it will thus obstruct the political settlement. In brief, it will help Israel torpedo the political settlement and this peace opportunity.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, the U.S. letter of assurances to the Palestinians notes the issue of Jerusalem and stresses that it will not recognize any geographic or demographic changes in Jerusalem and that it will not move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Don't you see a contradiction in the U.S. policy?

[Qaddumi] There is no doubt that this is a contradiction, but the previous administration and Mr. Baker, in particular, acted in a different manner than that of the current U.S. Administration. However, we must know full well that America is biased toward Israel and we also expected the Democratic administration to be more biased. This was evident when the Security Council adopted Resolution 904, and before that the resolution on the deportees. Christopher then came and struck a deal with Yitzhaq Rabin. Therefore, our position, since the beginning, has had reservations on all agreements. Also, we are convinced that the United States will not be unbiased. These U.S. acts will harm the issue of peace. We also believe that Israel has no credibility. Thus, we should make our decisions on this basis.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, what will the Palestinian reaction be if the U.S. embassy is moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem?

[Qaddumi] We should stress from the beginning that the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict is the Palestine question. We should focus on coordinating and strengthening Arab stands. We should also reactivate and bolster Arab solidarity. The Jerusalem issue is not just a national issue, but also an Arab, Islamic, and Christian issue. It is an international issue. So, this is a test of the Israeli intentions. Yitzhaq Rabin's mentality is a Likudist mentality, if we can say this. He wants to impose what he wants. Israel is not ready to achieve peace. Neither does it desire peace. Israel's political, social, and economic structure indicates that Israel is heading toward war. The Israeli mentality has not changed to give us hope that there will be a possibility for peace. The Palestinian and Arab stand must be based on these facts. The continuation of national struggle is necessary regardless of how long it takes.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, some Palestinians called for taking the issue to the International Court of Justice should the U.S. embassy be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Is this among the measures the Palestinians will take?

[Qaddumi] The UN Security Council is the highest international body maintaining peace and security, and its resolutions are binding on all UN member states. However, Israel does not respect these resolutions. So, what is the use of this? The issue is not that of a conflict over political issues only. We have rights and therefore, there must be political and economic power. At the same time, there should be a long struggle to make this Israeli enemy heed the voice of peace and wisdom, and to prevent it from ignoring the international will that seeks to achieve peace.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, it is known that the peace process is at a critical impasse due to the premeditated Israeli refusal to implement the principles of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and as a result of the continuation of settlements, the confiscation of land in Jerusalem, and procrastination on redeployment and on holding the Palestinian elections. How will the Palestinians react to this?

[Qaddumi] In fact, we expected this. Yitzhaq Rabin postponed withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho from 16 December 1993 to the month of April. There was not a wave of violence as Rabin claims. Violence began after the hideous massacre Israel perpetrated in the city of

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Hebron. The text of the agreement says that the security of the settlements, Israel, and Israeli personnel is an Israeli responsibility. So, why do they ask us about the issue of security? This is very clear. When Peres signed the agreement, Yitzhaq Rabin was not convinced of it. They had a specific plan; namely, not to abide by this agreement. It is not easy for one to trust his enemy. The balance of power is often the dominant factor. Israel was established on the basis of aggression, settlement, and immigration. So, if there is no power to deter such actions, Israel will not respect these agreements. We are convinced of this.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, will you resort to certain alternatives if Israel continues its indifference, its rejection, and its procrastination in applying the agreement, especially since Rabin is using the Palestinian card in the election campaign? He is using procrastination in the election process. What are the proposed Palestinian alternatives if such a situation goes on? Have we run out of all our strong cards, or do we still have any cards of pressure and power?

[Qaddumi] The world opposes the Israeli measure and believes, at the same time, that by their intransigent position, Israel and Rabin are harming the peace process and threatening peace in the region. This, in fact, means that the public opinion stands by our side. But we first have to stand by ourselves and to return to and solidify Arab coordination. We should not trust Israel's promises. National struggle is a must and should go on. We should not be so simple as to trust the enemy of today and yesterday. We have to continue our plans to preserve our rights through struggle, Arab coordination, and efforts to win over public opinion by commitment to the peace process. There is no doubt that the Arab, Palestinian, and international cards will together enable us to win the battle. But we have to take into account that the struggle will last long and that we have to wage it honorably and patiently.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, this is the last question. In your statement to the press today, you urged the Palestinian people to prepare to wage an inevitable and long struggle. What do you mean, and what are the implications of such a struggle?

[Qaddumi] All forms of struggle — as long as our land is occupied, we have the right to use all means of struggle. Occupation is the highest form of terrorism, and all the international laws and UN charters, as well as all the principles of human rights, urge man to preserve his rights and to use all means to safeguard them. Occupation, as I have said, is a collective punishment and a state terrorism. Israel should withdraw, and we have the right to defend ourselves, our rights, our life, and our future and to build that future freely and without any interference by anyone. Israel occupies the land, confiscates territories, violates men's freedom, and commits massacres. Therefore, we have the right to defend ourselves strongly.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, we have inconvenienced you a little. Our last question is: Is there any intention to hold a meeting of the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee?

[Qaddumi] Yes. There is also the possibility that we will demand, just like before, a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee and an Islamic conference, and a meeting of the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee. We have called for this because it is necessary to clarify the picture to the world, to continue to push the peace process forward, and at the same time, to defend our rights before the world and to take measures to safeguard them.

[Correspondent] At the end of this interview, we thank you, brother Abu-al-Lutf, Palestinian foreign minister and head of the PLO Political Department. Thank you for speaking over Jericho Voice of Palestine.

[Qaddumi] God bless you.

[Correspondent] Thanks.

Sha'th Cited on Cabinet Meeting on Jerusalem

JN1405195595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 May 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers of the Palestinian National Authority held its weekly meeting under President Yasir 'Arafat at the presidency in Gaza today. The council concentrated on the Jerusalem issue and the confiscation of Palestinian lands in Jerusalem with the aim of Judaizing it. The council said it considers Israel's measures in Jerusalem a serious and persistent attempt to swallow up the land of the city, a move which threatens the peace process.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, commented on the results of the council's meeting:

[Begin Sha'th recording] It was the meeting of Jerusalem. The issue was discussed in all its aspects — the meetings of the higher liaison committee in Cairo, the Palestinian plan to deal with the Jerusalem issue, and future steps on the Jerusalem issue. In fact the entire meeting dealt with this subject.

We must emphasize that the issue of Jerusalem is at the top of our priorities. There is nothing more important

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than Jerusalem. In the Cairo meetings of the higher liaison committee, the entire discussion was devoted to Jerusalem. There has been a serious and continuous attempt to swallow up the lands of Jerusalem one piece after another, which threatens the peace process as a whole. This threatens the continuation of this process and the results of the final status negotiating process, for which we agreed Jerusalem should be its most important topic. Without preserving Palestinian rights in Jerusalem, no final and just solution can be found to realize a just and durable peace in the region.

The Arab League meeting on Jerusalem was successful and we received great Arab support in this regard. I believe that the Arabs link what goes on in Jerusalem with all their future steps toward normalization and the continuation of the peace process. They find it impossible to embark upon fresh normalization measures without feeling that Israel is fully committed to the Palestinian people's rights in Jerusalem and that it will preserve them until we reach the final status negotiations.

Reports submitted to the Council of Ministers on the Security Council were all positive. We received great support. In the first battle, which is a procedural matter on presenting the subject, we were able to obtain the votes of 13 out of the 15 UN Security Council members to discuss the Jerusalem issue in the Security Council. We are continuing to discuss this issue until we obtain a resolution.

The formation of the Jerusalem committee under Faysal al-Husayni and Mr. Shahal, which is supposed to meet on the issue of Jerusalem, will not delay or obstruct the political action in any field until the confiscation decision is reversed and until our rights in Jerusalem are preserved.

Other issues were also discussed in Cairo and in this meeting discussions were held on the Jerusalem closure, on the rights of the inhabitants, the taxes that are collected from them, and the crossing of citizens of Jerusalem at international borders. We aim to escalate moves on these issues in all fields to preserve our rights. Jerusalem is the capital of our country, the future Palestinian state. It is a trust in our heart placed there by the Arab and Islamic nations. This makes us more careful to shoulder our responsibilities in this regard.

The Jerusalem committee, which was formed by the Council of Ministers under al-Husayni, will meet today and tomorrow. I do not think that any efforts will be spared to preserve our rights in this city. [end recording]

Council of Ministers Meeting Detailed

JN1505100495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers of the National Authority has devoted its weekly session under President Yasir 'Arafat to discussing the confiscation and settlement onslaught on Jerusalem, the capital of our Palestinian state.

President 'Arafat submitted to the council a complete report on the recent moves and contacts in this respect on the Arab League and the UN Security Council level, and on the other contacts with the leaders of the Arab, Islamic, and Christian world.

In his report, the president praised the efforts by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League Secretary General, and by the chairman of the Arab League's Council current session in convening this session at the foreign ministers' level. He also praised the resolutions adopted by the session in support of the Palestinian cause, the Arab nation's central cause, and which are a victory for the united Arab stand on Jerusalem despite the skepticism and attempts by outside parties to obstruct this Arab meeting and prevent it from making decisions.

In his report, the president praised the stands of friendly countries which responded to the Arab request to convene an emergency session of the UN Security Council. President Yasir 'Arafat highly valued the united Palestinian stand on Jerusalem, the capital of our Palestinian state, and the moves by national key figures and forces to confront this new onslaught which primarily seeks to obliterate Jerusalem's Palestinian characteristics, wipe out its Arab nature and identity, and harm our Islamic and Christian shrines. All this violates international legitimacy resolutions, the Declaration of Principles [DOP], and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

After listening to the reports submitted by the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem on the recent violations in terms of confiscation and settlement activities according to a decision by the Israeli Government, the council emphasized the following:

1. The battle to defend Jerusalem is the Palestinian people's main battle, and the Palestinian people, wherever they are and at all levels, should protect it and its Islamic and Christian shrines.

2. The Council of Ministers, the PLO, and all the Palestinian people refuse to view the issue of the confiscated lands in East Jerusalem as a real estate issue and affirm that it is a national, pan-Arab, political, and religious issue that violates international law and international legitimacy resolutions because Jerusalem is part of the territories occupied in 1967.

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3. The Council of Ministers calls on all the Palestinian national forces and institutions to confront this new confiscation and settlement onslaught in Jerusalem and to protect Jerusalem and its shrines, identity, and land.

4. The Council of Ministers calls on fraternal Arab countries to completely link Arab relations with Israel to the stoppage of confiscations and all violations in and outside Jerusalem, to the abidance by all the international legitimacy resolutions, and to the land-for-peace principle.

5. To continue work to have the UN Security Council pass a resolution, and to call on the Organization of Islamic Conference, and the Jerusalem Committee under His Majesty King Hassan II to hold an emergency meeting to confront this onslaught.

6. The council calls on the U.S. Administration to abide by the letter of guarantee it had issued at the Madrid conference on not carrying out any demographic changes in the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and to compel Israel to respect international legitimacy principles and the DOP signed in Washington under President Clinton's auspices and which was signed by Russia and the United States, the cosponsors of the peace conference.

The ministerial committee on Jerusalem will meet on Monday morning to follow up on the implementation of the special tasks of confronting the confiscation and settlement measures.

The council said it will remain in open session to follow up and deal with all developments on all levels.

'Abd-al-Shafi Calls For Suspending Talks With Israel

JN1405100895 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 May 95 p 25

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, one of the senior founding members of the PLO and former chief of the Palestinian negotiators, has said that moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is a violation of UN resolutions and the ongoing peace process. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said in a telephone interview with AL-RA'Y from Gaza that if the decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Avi to Jerusalem is implemented it will be considered illegal, and consequently, the Palestinian-Israeli and Arab-Israeli negotiations will lose their significance and essence.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: I call on the UN Security Council, which is currently in session, to discuss and reject the statements made by Bob Dole, leader of the Republican majority in the U.S. Senate, calling for moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem before the end of 1995.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi called on the Security Council to underscore UN Resolution 181 which calls for internationalizing the Jerusalem area until a final solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is reached. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi added: I also call on the Security Council to intervene in the issue of usurping and expropriating Arab land in Jerusalem and in all the occupied territory.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the Security Council should not be our last resort, reaffirming the importance of Arab efforts in this humiliating stage of Arab history. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: The Palestinians want to see continuous Arab efforts to face Israeli challenges. He added: I do not want to propose mechanisms for the Arab countries to face these challenges, particularly since Jordan and Egypt have established relations [with Israel] and the rest of the Arab countries have strong relations with America which fully supports Israel.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: Regarding the available mechanisms for the Palestinian side to face these challenges, I call for suspending the talks and facing the world with the fact that Israel is the party which obstructs the peace process.

Abu-Zayyad: Jerusalem May Become Jewish-Muslim Dispute

TA1505112895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 May 95 p A2

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Attorney Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, who recently has been one of the most prominent Palestinians to speak out on the Jerusalem issue, warned yesterday that the Israeli Government decision to approve the expropriation of land in East Jerusalem jeopardizes "the peace we are building, including the peace with Jordan and Egypt and any other peace agreement Israel can attain."

According to him, the Israeli Government "is planting a time bomb that might explode in the future and blow up the entire peace process by turning the dispute (over Jerusalem) from an Israeli-Palestinian conflict into a Jewish-Muslim dispute."

Regarding the government decision not to continue to seize land in Jerusalem, Abu-Zayyad said that "there is no land left to seize" anyway.

Attending yesterday's Betzelem news conference at which the organization presented its report on the

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expropriation issue, Abu-Zayyad said the report is "important and factual" and "substantiates the suspicions and allegations that illegal things are taking place."

Abu-Zayyad said the report shows that "Judaizing Jerusalem" is not a new government policy, but he noted that "there has been an intensive exacerbation of the activity" of Jewish construction in East Jerusalem.

"We believe this activity torpedoes the entire peace process, endangers it, and constitutes a violation of the agreement because, through this policy, Israel is trying to determine the results of the negotiations on Jerusalem before they even start," he said.

Abu-Zayyad, who recently met with a large number of foreign diplomats at Orient House and spearheaded the efforts to garner the support of international public opinion for the Palestinian stand against the expropriations, said that so far, the international reaction has been "general" and consists of no more than words and statements. "We would like to see something more practical; that is, we want the Israelis to drop the plan and give the peace process a chance to succeed." According to him, "it should be understood that stable peace in the area will only exist if the Jerusalem problem is solved in a way that is acceptable to all the parties."

"Jerusalem symbolizes both the Muslim faith and national Arab honor. If we solve the problem (of Jerusalem), the Palestinians will become the representatives of both the national and the religious aspects," Abu-Zayyad said. "Throughout history, Jerusalem has symbolized the merger between Arab nationalism and the Muslim religion." Therefore, he said, harming Jerusalem's Arab character is perceived by the Muslims as an infringement on Islam, which gives rise to much opposition from the entire Muslim world.

Gaza Jihad Leaders Say 'Prepared To Suspend Attacks'

TA1405050095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] 'Abdallah al-Shami, an Islamic Jihad leader in the Gaza Strip who was released from jail in Gaza yesterday, said he and his men are prepared to suspend attacks on Israel for the time being. He noted that this constitutes a change in his position which developed during his incarceration by the Palestinian Authority [PA].

Shaykh Nafis 'Azzam, another Islamic Jihad leader in the Gaza Strip, said that there is no justification for the continued existence of the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and that they constitute a source of tension. Shaykh 'Azzam said there is no agreement between the PA and his organization to suspend attacks. Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin Ben-Menahem recording] The release of Shaykh al-Shami set off various rumors and projections. On leaving prison, he said he supports the temporary suspension of attacks against Israel, but in an interview to REUTER, he stressed that jihad is still the movement's official policy.

Shaykh 'Azzam said it is no secret that decisions on the movement's policy on attacks are made overseas and not in the Gaza Strip. In an interview to Qol Yisra'el, Shaykh 'Azzam said al- Shami's remarks are his private view. [passage omitted]

'Azzam said: There is no agreement between us and the PA. It is not up to us to decide on suspending attacks. Al-Shami's release was not tied to any agreement, he said. Shaykh 'Azzam refused to discuss possible future attacks but agreed to discuss settlements. The existence of the settlements in the Gaza Strip will continue to create tension, and there is no justification for their continued existence, he said.

Furayh Abu-Middayn, the official in charge of the justice portfolio in the PA, said the PA is continuing its efforts to reach an agreement with the opposition on a suspension of attacks. Everybody knows that the principal problem, however, is Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which is the main organization perpetrating the attacks and operating explosives experts, such as Yahya 'Ayyash. At this stage, Hamas is not prepared to even discuss the possibility of ceasing attacks inside the PA for a limited time. [end recording]

Leaflet Clarifies Position

TA1405103895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A short time ago, the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip issued a leaflet saying it opposes any agreement on suspending attacks against Israel or on the movement's activists' turning their weapons in. The leaflet presents detailed conditions for the resumption of the dialogue between the Islamic Jihad and the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Ben-Menahem] The reports in Israel and abroad about an Islamic Jihad-PA agreement on the temporary suspension of attacks are the main topic of conversation in the Gaza Strip today. The Islamic Jihad issued a leaflet a short time ago clarifying its position. The movement, the leaflet said, emphasizes its opposition to any agreement that refers to stopping attacks or handing over weapons. The leaflet said the Islamic Jihad-PA dialogue,

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suspended about a month ago, will not be resumed until the following conditions are fulfilled: a cessation of false reports to the media; the release of all detainees; the abolition of the special military court and its verdicts; an end to arrests; and the passing of civil laws to uphold the rights of all civilians.

The leaflet blames the Israeli media for disseminating false reports and says the release of Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami was not linked to the PA-Islamic Jihad dialogue. It is being said in the Gaza Strip that Islamic Jihad activists receive their orders from Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the movement's leader, who resides in Damascus. Al-Shaqaqi relays orders and funds to his activists in the territories, and as far as is known, he opposes any agreement on stopping attacks, even for a limited period.

Gaza Leader: Attacks To Continue

TA1505064895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Nafidh 'Azzam, one of the Islamic Jihad leaders in the Strip, says the organization has not changed its stands on the Oslo and Cairo agreements. He told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Islamic Jihad will continue its attacks even after the Palestinian Authority [PA] assumes control of the West Bank. He asserted that holy war is a fixed principle which does not conform to political changes.

Our correspondent adds that the tension between the PA and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has grown after the PA's special military court sentenced Hamas leader Sayyid Abu-Musamih to two years in prison for incitement against the Palestinian police.

Islamic Jihad Refuses To Register Arms With Authorities

NC1405170095 Paris AFP in English 1449 GMT 14 May 95

[By Sakher Abou el-Oun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, May 14 (AFP) — The Palestinian Authority said Sunday [14 May] it would begin to confiscate illegal weapons in self-ruled Gaza and Jericho as a deadline to register all guns expired with hardliners refusing to comply.

Islamic Jihad, one of the two main militant groups opposed to the PLO, ruled out a surrender of weapons and vowed like the other main group, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), to keep up the armed struggle against Israel.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat gave Palestinians a month to licence their weapons on April 11 in a crackdown on armed militants, before extending the deadline Thursday until after the Moslem feast of sacrifice.

"Today the deadline expired," Justice Minister Furayh Abu- Middayn told AFP.

Police would not carry out systematic searches but anyone found possessing an unregistered gun would be arrested and prosecuted, said Abu-Middayn, who added that offenders would face prison or a fine.

"We are not going to search houses but if we learn that weapons are being stored somewhere, we will go there. We will continue to seize arms but there is no need to do so in a heavy-handed way," he said.

The arms deadline was set after an Islamic Jihad suicide bombing killed seven Israelis and an American in Gaza on April 9.

Islamic Jihad, however, warned Sunday that it "rejects any agreement aimed at halting military operations or giving up arms." The group also ruled out dialogue with the self-rule authority.

The statement came despite the release of a leader of Islamic Jihad, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, who said the move was aimed at encouraging dialogue between 'Arafat's authority and militants opposed to the PLO's peace accord with Israel.

Palestinian police have, meanwhile, detained six members of Hamas, which has also refused to lay down arms against Israel.

They include Sayyid Abu-Missamah, editor of the Hamas newspaper AL-WATAN who was taken away for questioning on Saturday and who had not been released by midday Sunday.

Abu-Missamah represented Hamas at talks currently underway between opposition groups and the Palestinian self-rule Authority aimed at easing tension in the Gaza Strip.

Police also rounded up a member of the Hamas armed wing as well as four other activists on Wednesday.

More than 200 fundamentalists were detained in Gaza after suicide attacks against Israel but most have since been released. Some 15 Islamic Jihad members remain in jail, according to police sources.

Hamas, which broke off reconciliation talks with the Palestinian Authority a week ago, stressed its refusal to submit to 'Arafat's orders.

"The position of Hamas is clear: our activists will not return their weapons," Mahmud Zahar, one of the group's leaders, told AFP.

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Hamas Threatens U.S. Interests Over Embassy Move

NC1405183695 Paris AFP in English 1811 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, May 14 (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) warned on Sunday [14 May] that U.S. interests in the Middle East would be hit if Washington transferred its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The group, which condemned legislation put forward by U.S. Senator Robert Dole to move the embassy, said the proposal showed that the United States supported Israel's attempts to maintain Jerusalem as its undivided capital.

If the move went ahead "this would fill the Arab and Moslem people with hatred and anger and they would react by hitting American interests in the region," Hamas said.

Dole, the leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, introduced legislation on May 10 that would mandate the United States to move its embassy to Jerusalem by May 31, 1999.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has tried to distance his administration from the proposal, believing it could harm the Middle East peace process.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, who is pressing for the eastern sector of the city to become the capital of a future Palestinian state, has condemned the proposal and threatened to go to the International Court of Justice in The Hague if the legislation is passed.

Hamas Newspaper Manager Jailed by Security Court

NC1405204595 Paris AFP in English 1919 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, May 14 (AFP) — The general manager of an Islamic fundamentalist newspaper was jailed for two years by the Palestinian security court on Sunday [14 May], judicial sources said.

Sayyid Abu-Missanah, general manager of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) newspaper AL-WATAN was found guilty of incitement to revolt against the Palestinian Authority led by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, they said.

The court, whose decisions cannot be challenged, also banned the newspaper from publishing for three years, the sources added.

Abu-Missanah, 50, was imprisoned following publication of two articles accusing the Palestinian police of mistreating Hamas activists in custody, journalists on the paper told AFP.

He is a leading figure in the fundamentalist organization and took part in talks aimed at reaching a reconciliation with the PLO over the past few weeks.

Palestinian security agents, who arrested Abu-Missanah on Saturday, also questioned the paper's editor, 'Imad al-Faluji, on Sunday and then released him.

Hamas and the other main fundamentalist group, Islamic Jihad, rejected the Palestinian Authority's order on Sunday to hand in all illegal weapons in a security crackdown following anti-Israeli attacks by both groups in the Gaza Strip.

Gaza Police Release Hamas Preacher After Arrest

TA1405150195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police in Gaza have released Shaykh Salama al-Safadi, one of the leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip and the preacher at Falastin Mosque. He was arrested on 12 May after inciting people against the Palestinian Authority [PA] at his weekly sermon by accusing the PA of neglecting the Jerusalem problem. This was reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Authority Takes Delivery of 2 Russian Helicopters

JN1105171895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1320 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ladies and Gentlemen: The first two Palestinian helicopters arrived in the homeland from abroad today with a qualified Palestinian crew on board. On this issue, we present to you this dialogue with Brigadier General Fayiz Zaydan, director general of aviation, conducted by Ahmad Rafiq 'Awad.

[Begin recording] ['Awad] Brigadier General Fayiz Zaydan, would you give us the details about the recent arrival of two helicopters?

[Zaydan] In fact, I consider today, 10 May, a Palestinian wedding. This is a historical moment in which two Palestinian helicopters landed for the first time in the homeland, the land of Palestine, the land of the Palestinian National Authority. These helicopters were piloted by a completely Palestinian crew, that is, the captains, assistant captain, flight engineers, and technical team are all Palestinians.

['Awad] Yes.

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[Zaydan] The helicopters made a very efficient landing at 1208 [0908 GMT] today, coming from Cairo, Egypt. They arrived in Cairo approximately 10 months ago and were awaiting this moment.

You might not know, and I would like to tell you and the Palestinian people, that these helicopters flew from Sanaa to Baghdad some time ago. After some maintenance work on them in Baghdad, these helicopters went to Jordan and arrived in Cairo approximately 10 months ago.

['Awad] Brigadier General Fayiz Zaydan, director general of aviation, with the arrival of these two helicopters in the homeland, how many planes does Palestinian aviation have now?

[Zaydan] As I told you, these are the first Palestinian helicopters to land in the homeland, which means there were no planes before that. However, these two helicopters were owned by the PLO before entering. These are Russian made MI-8 helicopters. One of them is equipped to accommodate 14 VIPs. The other one is equipped to accommodate 28 passengers. These helicopters will be used for official government transportation between Gaza and Jericho, during the first stage. [passage omitted]

['Awad] Brigadier General Fayiz Zaydan, what is the latest news about the Gaza airport project? What is the status of this project? What has been accomplished so far?

[Zaydan] We have accomplished a lot regarding the Gaza airport issue. We have concluded most of the planning processes. Hopefully, you will soon hear about our signing of an agreement, as well as contracts to build the airport. We hope to start construction this summer. If everything goes well, we will be able to take off from this airport by the end of this year or the beginning of next year, God willing.

['Awad] Will this airport receive airplanes from outside the homeland?

[Zaydan] Of course. Let me go back to the issue of the two helicopters. These two helicopters constitute the first article in the Cairo agreement dealing with aviation. It is followed by the second article on the issue of constructing the airport and then the other articles that deal with bringing in Palestinian airplanes to carry passengers between Gaza and Jericho, and also to carry passengers between Gaza and Jericho and member nations of the ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organization], such as Cairo, Amman, Larnaca, and all other friendly and brotherly countries.

['Awad] In other words, there will be direct flights from Gaza airport to the countries you just mentioned.

[Zaydan] God willing, there will be direct flights between Gaza airport to these countries.

['Awad] Brigadier General Fayiz Zaydan. A final question. You recently concluded aviation agreements with Qatar. Would you give us details about these agreements?

[Zaydan] In fact, the Palestinian civil aviation authority has signed an agreement with the Qatari civil aviation authorities called the bilateral agreement on air transportation. This agreement defines the expected number of flights and passengers between Doha Airport and Palestinian airports.

Moreover, we signed another agreement between the Palestinian Airlines and the Qatari Airlines based on which the two airlines recognize all the documents and tickets issued by both sides. These agreements are important because, as you know, it is not possible to operate flights between one country and another without such an agreement. This agreement usually needs time after it is signed, because it has to be ratified by the concerned governments of both countries. Moreover, they have to be ratified by the ICAO — a process which needs some time.

Therefore, we wanted to sign such an agreement. We also want to sign similar agreements with friendly and brotherly countries before we complete the construction of the airport so that once the runways are constructed, we can use the transportation rights we have agreed on with these countries.

['Awad] Are there other agreements with Arab and friendly countries?

[Zaydan] We will sign an agreement with Egypt and Jordan very soon, God willing. We have presented similar applications. We hope to sign these agreements in the near future, God willing. [passage omitted]

['Awad] Brigadier General Fayiz. Thank you.

[Zaydan] Thank you.

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Algeria

European Union Delegation Pays Official Visit

Grants 200 Million ECU Loan

LD1305163195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A European Union delegation representing the European triumvirate — namely France, Germany, and Spain — will arrive in Algeria today. This visit is part of the preliminary consultations taking place ahead of the European-Mediterranean Conference due to be held in Barcelona in November.

During its visit, the European delegation will hold talks with Algerian officials and will be received by the foreign affairs minister, Mr. Mohamed Salah Dembri.

This visit follows yesterday's announcement that Algeria had obtained a 200 million ECU [as heard] loan from the European Union. The loan agreement, which was signed in Brussels yesterday, had been approved by the European Parliament on 15 December 1994.

This loan, which Algeria will receive in two instalments, is aimed at sustaining our country's balance of payments.

Furthermore, this visit by the European delegation also follows the agreement in principle reached yesterday on the main points of the financial package between Algeria and the London Club. According to a joint statement released in Paris yesterday, this financial package covers about $1.5 billion of the debts which have been rescheduled and $2.5 billion of the debts [Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 12 May and Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 2200 GMT on 12 May both give the above figures as $1.1 billion and $2.1 million] which have not been rescheduled yet, including the debts due to financial dealers.

This deal with the London Club on the rescheduling of debts is aimed to reinforce Algeria's financial position significantly.

Still on the subject of Algerian-European cooperation, Mr. Reda Hamiani, minister of small and medium-sized enterprises, will start a visit to Brussels on Monday at the head of a delegation of Algerian public and private businessmen. The delegation will hold talks with Belgian officials to discuss the possibility of establishing a partnership between the two countries.

Group Visits Foreign Minister

LD1305201095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A European troika delegation including representatives from Germany, France, and Spain, was received at the Foreign Ministry by Mr. Mohamed Salah Dembri this afternoon.

The troika's visit to Algiers comes as part of preliminary consultations in view of the Euro-Mediterranean conference scheduled to take place in November.

Mr. Bernard Prague, the representative [responsible] of the troika, spoke to Badia Haddad:

[Begin Prague recording] The troika has come to discuss with the Algerian authorities preparations for the Barcelona conference which will take place next November and which will hopefully lay the foundations for a new partnership between the European Union and all its 12 Mediterranean partners.

This summit will probably be preceded by a number of preparatory meetings between senior civil servants, and I am sure Algeria will attend these meetings on a par with the other European and Mediterranean countries.

In Barcelona itself, we hope that all the countries represented will be in a position to accept... [pauses] ...to approve either a joint statement or a charter defining the establishment of the new partnership between Europe and the Mediterranean region. [end recording]

As for the Algerian foreign minister, Mr. Dembri, he spoke about the conditions for a true partnership between Europe and the Maghreb:

[Begin Dembri recording] If we want to stand up to the European giant without too much damage, the building of our economy should take place in favorable circumstances. Furthermore, we must also assess the achievements of the Maghreb so far and see to its promotion in terms of economic complementarity. This also calls for consultations on the Maghreb side. We hope to be able to hold these consultations next June, and we shall then have a coordinated position for us to go to Barcelona. [end recording]

Creditor Banks Agree To Reschedule Trade Debt

LD1205234095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 May 95

[Report by Noreddine Bouziane from Paris]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After seven months of difficult negotiations, today in Paris, Algeria and the creditor banks reached an agreement on rescheduling about $3.2

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million of Algerian trade debts. In a statement released in Paris, it was announced that an initial agreement was reached on the main points contained in a joint financial plan between Algeria and the banks.

The agreement covers the basic part of the Algerian debt, which is estimated at $4.7 million, and it exempts Algeria from paying back the overdue sums up to the year 1998 and the year 2000 in accordance with the debts concerned. It also makes the settlement extend over a period of five to 10 years.

The agreement covers the $1.1 million of the debt which was financed three years ago, and the sum of $2.2 million covers the remainder of the Algerian trade debt.

The initial agreement also covers the overdue sums which should have been settled between 1 March 1994 and 31 December 1997. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Kill 46 'Terrorists'

LD1405193695 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services today said that security forces killed 46 terrorists between Tuesday and Saturday in the Provinces of Algiers, Relizane, Boumerdes, Blida, and Djelfa. The security forces seized various weapons and ammunition during the operations.

Twenty-Seven 'Terrorists' Killed in Various Regions

LD1205201495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The fight against terrorism: 27 terrorists have been killed in various regions of the country, particularly in Sidi Bel Abbes, Chelef, Oran, Constantine, Setif, and Algiers.

According to the communique of the security services, a quantity of weapons and ammunition were seized.

One Killed, Three Wounded in Blasts near Tizi Ouzou

LD1305101895 Paris LCI Television in French 0830 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria the newspaper LIBERTE reports this morning that one person was killed and three were wounded when some 12 home-made bombs went off near Tizi Ouzou. The paper says that the explosions were preceded by intense gunfire in what appears to have been an ambush.

Member of War Veterans Organization Assassinated

LD1405164295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Here is a message of condolence from the National Organization of War Veterans:

With great sorrow and sadness, the National Secretariat of the War Veterans Organization received the news of the assassination of (Larbi Khrouf), member of the liberation army and the National Council of War Veterans and mayor of Chafia Municipality in Taref Province. [passage omitted]

Boudiaf's Widow Blames Regime For Husband's Murder

LD1205202495 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the trial of the suspected killer of President Boudiaf is due to resume on 15 May. Today President Boudiaf's widow broke her silence: She told the French paper LA CROIX that in her opinion the Algerian authorities have no intention of shedding light on the murder of her husband. She explained that the form of the investigation was not honored. In particular, according to her, no reconstruction [of the murder] took place, and some 73 pages of the report by the commission of inquiry have disappeared. Finally, she believes that the Islamic Salvation Front was not responsible for the murder of her husband, President Boudiaf, and that the real people responsible are still in charge of the Algerian state.

Egypt

Musa Meets U.S. Congressman on Jerusalem Issue

NC1405101495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with a U.S. House of Representatives delegation led by Sam Gejdenson, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee [title as received], currently visiting Cairo. Gejdenson said after the meeting that the talks focused on the developments in the Middle East, the peace efforts, and the obstacles facing the peace process.

In his statement, the U.S. official said: Everyone hopes that the Middle East will be free of all weapons of mass destruction. He stressed that there is a connection between the peace process and making the region free of weapons of mass destruction as this would advance the peace process. He expressed the hope that all the

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region's states, including Israel, will endeavor to make the region free of nuclear weapons.

Responding to a question about the U.S. efforts to prevent the issuance of any resolution condemning the recent Israeli measures in Jerusalem, Gejdenson said that this issue has not yet been presented for negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians. What counts is when and how this issue should be resolved so that it will reflect positively on the region, Gejdenson added.

Delegate Decries Israeli Land Seizure at UNSC

NC1305082095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, United Nations, 13 May (MENA) — Egypt has declared that Israel's expropriation of more occupied Palestinian land in Jerusalem is a serious violation of international law and UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions. It said that this action threatens the entire peace process because it pulls the rug from under the feet of those who advocate peaceful negotiations as a method of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in particular.

This position was presented in an address delivered by Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent representative at the United Nations, during a Security Council meeting held early today to discuss the Israeli Government's decision to confiscate land in Jerusalem. Al-'Arabi said that Egypt hopes that the arguments of peace and reconciliation will overcome expansionist designs, that the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles will be implemented faithfully, and that the permanent status negotiations that will lay the cornerstone of Palestinian political independence and permanent peace between the two sides will begin.

The following is the text of Dr. al-'Arabi's address to the Security Council:

Mr. President, only a few years ago the achievement of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East was a dream difficult to realize. Now after the historic Palestinian-Israeli reconciliation, this dream has become attainable. The establishment of peace, however, requires that all parties respect their international commitments. Doubtlessly Israel's confiscation of more occupied Arab land in Jerusalem to build Israeli settlements is a serious violation of international law and Security Council resolutions. This confiscation constitutes a blatant disregard of the pledges made by the Israeli Government itself and raises questions about Israel's commitment to the peace process. The Israeli confiscation of more occupied Palestinian land in Jerusalem doubtlessly threatens the entire peace process because it pulls the rug from under the feet of those who advocate peaceful negotiations as a way of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly between the Palestinians and Israelis. Such measures strengthen the position of the advocates of extremism, violence, and terrorism in both camps.

Based on this, when the Security Council examines this issue today it must deal with it as a source of insecurity and instability in the entire Middle East and consequently as a threat to global peace and security. We trust that the Security Council will examine all the aspects of this issue, particularly its possible implications to the peace process and its long-term effect of giving the logic of violence and confrontation the upper hand over the logic of peace and cooperation.

Mr. President, the world community has often firmly confronted Israel's illegal attempts to annex East Jerusalem, alter its legal status, or change its geographical and demographic character. All such attempts represent a serious violation of international law, particularly the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 that pertains to the protection of civilians in times of war. Ever since Israel made its first move to annex Jerusalem the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council have adopted numerous resolutions denouncing the Israeli actions, declaring them null and void, and noting that they do not affect the city's legal status as part of the territories occupied by Israel in 1967.

The Security Council has issued a long series of resolutions on this matter, notably Resolution 252 in 1968, Resolution 271 in 1969, Resolutions 476 and 478 in 1980, and Resolution 672 in 1990. All of them urge Israel, as an occupying authority, to respect its commitments in line with international law and the Geneva Convention and refrain from making any alterations in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

Mr. President, the Palestinian and Israeli sides have succeeded in concluding a historic reconciliation through their agreement on the Declaration of Principles on 13 September 1993. The two sides also agreed on specific steps as a prelude toward achieving a peaceful settlement to their dispute on the basis of the land for peace and Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

Despite Israel's delay in honoring its commitments as stipulated in this agreement and the obstacles Israel is placing before the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the rest of the West Bank, we are still very

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hopeful that the logic of peace and reconciliation will overshadow the expansionist covetous designs, that the Declaration of Principles will be sincerely implemented, and that the negotiations pertaining to the ultimate status will commence so that the cornerstone for the Palestinian political independence and the permanent peace between the two sides will be laid.

According to the Declaration of Principles, the two sides agreed to hold negotiations over four issues during the next year, namely Jerusalem, the settlements, refugees, and borders. We wonder how Israel reconciles its commitments as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles with its fresh measures that are aimed at making demographical changes in Jerusalem. Can this agreement be used as a pretext, as some people wish to reiterate, so that the international community would change its position toward Israel's illegitimate attempts to annex East Jerusalem or confiscate some land in it? The Declaration of Principles clearly indicates that the two sides should not take any step that would change the legal status of Jerusalem.

Three months ago, on 6 February, the Israeli foreign minister met with the ambassadors of the UN Security Council permanent member states and other ambassadors. They all affirmed to us that Israel is committed to implementing the Declaration of Principles. They clearly pledged that Israel will not confiscate more Arab land in East Jerusalem. Does this agree with Israel's current measures? And which language shall we believe, is it the language of pledges and assurances or that of expansionist measures that usurp the peoples' rights?

Mr. President, the international community represented in the Security Council today is being asked more than at any time before to reiterate its firm stance on Israel's illegitimate and illegal measures that are aimed at changing the status of Arab Jerusalem.

No doubt, the Security Council's silence over these illegitimate measures that encroach on the Palestinian people's rights will raise serious questions about the credibility of the rules and criteria used by the council in dealing with various kinds of aggression. The council's silence is also bound to confirm the claim about the double standard attitude of these criteria and the partiality of the rules. This will eventually weaken the council's ability to deal with any possible aggression in the future.

The countries interested in the success of the peace process, especially the United States as a cosponsor of this process, are particularly called upon to shoulder their responsibilities to convince Israel to go back on the latest illegal measures of expropriating Arab lands in east Jerusalem.

In this respect, we must refer particularly to Security Council Resolution 478 of 1980, which categorically determines the non-recognition of Israel's annexation of Jerusalem.

Respecting this and other Security Council resolutions on Jerusalem is not only a necessity dictated by the rules of international law and the provisions of the UN charter, but also a requirement for the continuation and success of the peace process. No doubt, any violation of those resolutions may put a painful end to the peace process, which many sides, notably Egypt, made tremendous efforts to launch and now needs intensive efforts to ensure its success.

Mr. President, in its extraordinary session on 6 May, the ministerial meeting of the Arab League Council decided to ask the Security Council to declare that the Israeli decision is illegal. It called on Israel to rescind its decision on the expropriation of Palestinian lands in and outside Jerusalem, to stop its settlement plans and programs, to end the continued closure of the city, and to stop all Israeli excavations that threaten the foundations of the al-Aqsa mosque. These measures are necessary to guarantee the continuation of the peace process and the achievement of its objectives on the basis of world legitimacy; Security Council Resolutions 252, 267, 465, 476, and 478; and relevant UN General Assembly and UNESCO resolutions. The Arab League Council also stressed the need for security measures to protect public and private Palestinian Arab lands without exception and urged that the Security Council take into consideration the special status of Jerusalem.

Mr. President, the peoples of the Arab and Islamic world, indeed all the peoples that look forward to peace, are today turning their eyes toward this esteemed council awaiting a decision that puts an end to Israel's illegal measures that frustrates those peoples' hopes in the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East through negotiations, not through confrontation and the use of force.

Mr. President, President Husni Mubarak has announced that Israel's decision to confiscate Arab lands in Jerusalem relinquishes all principles, undermines confidence in the peace process, arouses the religious sentiments of Muslims and Christians, and embarrasses all sides. Egypt has repeatedly warned against disregarding the hopes of Arab and Muslim peoples and Israel's persistence in the policies of expansion, as this would strengthen the argument for extremism and confrontation and weaken the supporters of moderation and dialogue. This would reflect negatively on stability in the region and threaten international security. Perhaps the Security Council, out of its responsibility and

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to protect the Middle East peace process, can today take a step to confront this threat, which may torpedo the peace process.

UN Envoy Explains NPT Decisions, Arab Role

NC1405075695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0420 GMT 14 May 95

[Interview with Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent representative at the United Nations, by Huda Abu-al-Faraj; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-al-Faraj] Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi, negotiations on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] ended with an indefinite extension of the pact. What was the role of the Egyptian delegation?

[Al-'Arabi] I would like to start by explaining that the NPT came into force in 1970. Egypt played a major role in its preparation, was among the first countries that signed it, and later ratified it. The treaty ultimately ensures that nuclear weapons are not spread. But for it to achieve its objectives, it must be universal; that is, all countries must join it. The NPT allowed the five countries that carried out nuclear tests in 1967 to keep their nuclear weapons on the grounds that they would make major reductions in those weapons until the day when all their nuclear arsenals will be eliminated. These powers were the United States, the United Kingdom, China, France, and the then Soviet Union and now Russian Federation. However, the pact is still not universal.

Moreover, the NPT was produced in the sixties. It does not have its own control, verification, and inspection system, and it depends for this on the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The IAEA is doing this job, but the system it is using needs consolidation.

The treaty does not have security guarantees for the countries that reject the nuclear option, the non-nuclear countries. The Security Council tried to address this issue in two decisions, but so far, the security guarantees continue to be insufficient.

Now the NPT has become indefinite, and we have to deal with this reality. If you asked me to comment on this two or three days ago, things would be different. Now the treaty is indefinite.

[Abu-al-Faraj] The NPT was made indefinite without voting, but through a consensus.

[Al-'Arabi] No, not through a consensus. According to the decision that was made, the NPT was extended indefinitely by a majority, not by a consensus. There is a big difference.

[Abu-al-Faraj] This means the majority approved the indefinite extension but there was no consensus, that is, not all....

['Al-'Arabi, interrupting] No, no, not all [word indistinct], and the evidence is that 20 states, including Egypt, spoke yesterday in the conference and clearly said that they disagree with the majority.

[Abu-al-Faraj] You announced this when you explained Egypt's position. You said that Egypt is not....

[Al-'Arabi, interrupting] And there were many other similar positions by Arab, African, and Asian countries. They clearly said they do not approve of the extension. But I would like to move to the other point, that is, the decisions that were made yesterday. There was a decision on the extension, and as I said, this subject was concluded and the NPT was extended indefinitely. There was another decision on principles, which all states party to the NPT must seek to precisely implement in the future. The first of these principles is the universality of the Treaty. Since yesterday, all state members to the treaty have had a political commitment — not a legal one — to seek to achieve the universality of the pact. A third decision was issued to consolidate the mechanism for the future review of the NPT. The fourth decision, and this happened for the first time, pertains to the Middle East, and it is the one that directly concerns us.

[Abu-al-Faraj] Will you please explain the decision on the Middle East?

[Al-'Arabi] The Middle East is the only region on which the conference made a specific decision. It notes the need for all states of the region to join the NPT and to subject their nuclear facilities to international supervision. The only state in the region with such facilities is Israel. The decision also calls for the need to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, that is, biological and chemical weapons. This is what President Husni Mubarak called for in 1991.

[Abu-al-Faraj] Was there a specific call addressed to Israel?

[Al-'Arabi] Let us be frank. The negotiations continued for about 10 days. Hours before the decisions were made, the Arab countries — especially Egypt and Algeria, which coordinated the Arab position — had to decide either to insist on a specific reference to Israel in the decision and so risk that the decision may not have been passed or include everything we wanted in the decision — joining the treaty, subjecting nuclear facilities to international supervision, and working swiftly to establish a region free of nuclear and other weapons

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of mass destruction — and let it be adopted by the countries in which the NPT is deposited — the United States, Britain, and Russia — and passed unanimously. We had to make a choice. We found it is better for such a resolution to be issued. It is clear which state is meant, especially that the decision refers to a conference document in which Israel is mentioned by name. This is what we could achieve. All those who participated in the negotiations and many other countries supported this inclination.

[Abu-al-Faraj] So you consider this to be a victory for Egyptian diplomacy, sir?

[Al-'Arabi] A victory for Arab diplomacy, including Egyptian diplomacy, no doubt.

[Abu-al-Faraj] Would you like to add anything, sir?

[Al-'Arabi] I would like to explain once again that the universal nonproliferation system is for the benefit of the non-nuclear states. These states, therefore, must work from within the system and never imagine that it is better for them to be outside it.

[Abu-al-Faraj] But Israel is not a party to the treaty.

[Al-'Arabi] [Words indistinct] I know this very well, but to get Israel to join we must remain in the system, [word indistinct] Israel, and mobilize the world community and the countries that have committed themselves to this decision to work to establish a nuclear-free zone and bring Israel to the NPT.

[Abu-al-Faraj] Thank you.

[Al-'Arabi] Thank you.

Foreign Minister Musa Comments on NPT Extension

NC1205153495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1315 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the renewal of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] means continued compliance with its clauses and provisions. However, he noted that the treaty will gain credibility only when it becomes universal and when the shortcomings in certain areas, such as Israel's keeping its nuclear reactor outside the framework of international legitimacy, are addressed. Commenting today on the outcome of the international NPT conference, where the indefinite extension of the treaty was approved, he said that the treaty was approved by a simple majority and that of the countries that put forward the extension proposal, none were an Arab country. He said that this shows the unified regional and Arab position, along with Egypt's, on the danger of a nuclear program in the region that is not subject to international supervision.

Musa added that the firm Egyptian position was not just tactical or meant to prove a point. He said that Egypt's position shows a worried Arab and regional position. This then requires that the Israeli position be addressed. He said the NPT indefinite extension shows two important points:

1. Renewal of the treaty took place by a simple majority and not by agreement of views; approximately 70 states did not accept the idea of the unconditional indefinite extension for various reasons.

2. The existence of a decision on the Middle East apart from other world areas shows a particular regional problem and, consequently, emphasizes the importance of the issue that Egypt raised on the need to continue efforts to address this situation.

Foreign Minister Musa said the treaty's renewal is not unconditional on the grounds that non-nuclear countries have demanded that principles be applied from now on concerning numerous complaints by these countries and unequal obligations.

He added that the conclusion of the international conference does not mean the end of the problem of the Israeli nuclear program because this problem still exists. Therefore, he noted, what has been achieved by the international conference is considered a positive step and good accomplishment in establishing an area free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East as advocated by President Husni Mubarak, which is what the international conference's resolution has stipulated.

Musa said he could not describe the conference's outcome as a victory but that it is a certain step on a difficult path toward freeing the Middle East of nuclear weapons, at the top of which is Israel's nuclear program.

Musa noted that the resolution passed by the conference on the Middle East had been proposed by the United States, Russia, Britain, and certain Arab countries. This, he added, confirms these countries' commitment to working toward freeing the region of military nuclear programs, namely the Israeli nuclear program which was at the center of the Middle East resolution.

The foreign minister concluded his statement by saying that there are several important considerations in the treaty that will be clarified later on.

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Official Hints at Revival of Nuclear Program

MM1505112595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 May 95 p 5

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Egypt Hints at Possibility of Reviving Its Nuclear Program"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — An Egyptian official has told AL-HAYAH that "no state — no matter how big or great — can, after the indefinite extension of the nuclear treaty, blame any state in the region if it begins to build or revives a nuclear program." As is known, in 1986 Egypt suspended a nuclear program it had started in 1955.

The Egyptian official added: "Despite failing in the endeavor to put Israel's nuclear program under the international guarantees system, we have succeeded in drawing the attention of the world, especially non-nuclear states, to the danger of this program's continuation without monitoring."

The official said that "after the conference on the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Egyptian diplomacy will continue to move in the same direction through the treaty and the documents still in Egypt's and the Arab states' possession."

He pointed to the multilateral negotiations and the proposed regional cooperation plans, saying that one cannot talk about regional cooperation while excluding the security element.

He added that "the foundations that governed Egypt's position on the rejection of the extension are considerations relating to regional conditions. Our position on the treaty is basically political. The indefinite extension and the continuation of the shortcomings have caused the extension to depart from its aims."

He pointed out that contacts and consultations in this connection will continue. Asked about consultations with Iran, he said that the issue of freeing the region from nuclear weapons has since 15 July 1974 been included as a standing issue on the UN General Assembly's agenda at an Egyptian-Iranian invitation. He said that Egyptian experts have over the past 10 years detected radioactive leakage from the Israeli Dimona reactor.

The Egyptian official rejected the view that the Arab states were one of the causes behind the indefinite extension of the nuclear treaty. However, he said: "If there had been a unified, coherent, and fixed Arab position vis-a-vis subjecting the Israeli nuclear program to inspection, that outcome, which is going to harm nonnuclear states, especially Arab states, would not have taken place." He went on: "We are not shocked."

He cited the incident of the Arab states' backtracking on the collective position after the signing of the chemical treaty in Paris in January 1993, as only three of the states that signed it remain: Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. He pointed out that the decision to extend the nuclear treaty indefinitely "has created a strange situation: a state (Israel) in possession of nuclear weapons but not subject to the treaty's obligations, and states governed by the treaty but facing a nuclear threat without any guarantee to subject this state to monitoring and inspection." He went on: This situation is "a gap in the international order. It could lead to cases of nuclear disobedience." He said that "those who agreed to the indefinite extension of the treaty should bear the responsibility for the lack of security balance and its effects in the medium and long term."

He stressed that Egypt will not withdraw from the treaty. "However, it continues to believe that what has happened is unacceptable and not understandable." He added that "the nuclear weapons stockpile is bigger than it was when the treaty was signed in 1986. And a complete ban on nuclear experiments has not been achieved, nor have proliferation, production, and stockpiling [of nuclear weapons] been banned."

Paper: Opposition to NPT Extension Produced Results

NC1305091495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0622 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA) — The newspaper AL-AHRAM says that the result achieved by the conference reviewing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] was not a surprise because none of the countries opposing the unconditional and indefinite extension of the treaty, notably Egypt, expected their opposition to succeed in defeating the efforts of the United States and the other major countries to renew the treaty without remedying its shortcomings.

In an editorial today, the paper notes that, nevertheless, Egyptian and nonaligned efforts achieved considerable results that are not to be denigrated.

The paper explains that the pressures that the major powers exerted reached the point where U.S. President Bill Clinton personally telephoned the heads of the countries opposing the extension. Noting that the pressures succeeded only in securing a simple majority for the indefinite NPT extension, the paper asserts that this doubtlessly reduces the moral force of the treaty as it stands today.

AL-AHRAM declares that Egypt, with backing from other Arab and Islamic countries, succeeded in obtaining

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a Security Council resolution calling on all Middle Eastern countries to join the NPT. It says that this resolution thus adopted Egypt's standing initiative to turn the Middle East into a region free of weapons of mass destruction.

The paper adds: Although the specter of the U.S. veto caused the deletion of a text calling on Israel by name to join the NPT, it is still clear that the entire resolution is addressed to Israel.

The paper says that Egypt maintained its opposition to indefinite NPT extension until the last moment and will continue to adhere to this position. It notes that this in itself is a major gain against those who expected Egypt to retract its reservations.

In conclusion AL-AHRAM declares that the issue of the Israeli nuclear program will remain open because Egypt will not fall silent or disregard this issue until the time when Israel submits to international obligations.

Envoy on Expropriation, Embassy Move, NPT

NC1505081195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0645 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 15 May (MENA) — Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Ahmad Mahir has stated that recent developments concerning the status of the city of Jerusalem have again highlighted that peace, just like war, needs struggle, patience, and perseverance.

He referred in this context to the two debated issues of Israel's announcement on the expropriation of Palestinian land in Jerusalem and progressive attempts in the U.S. Congress to issue a decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city.

Speaking at a "seminar with the Arab community in the United States," the Egyptian ambassador called for maintaining action on every level to frustrate these attempts.

The Egyptian ambassador cautioned that everything the peace process has achieved so far will be at stake if the United States submits to Israeli logic on an issue of great importance, not only to the Palestinians, but to all Arabs and Muslims, namely, the issue of Jerusalem, which Israel and the PLO agreed in the Oslo agreement to include in negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories.

Ambassador Ahmad Mahir remarked that the issue is being raised amid the "carnival" the U.S. politicians started early to win Jewish votes in next year's election. He remarked that U.S. politicians are racing to cajole Jewish voters at a time when the Israeli conduct conflicts with the concept of peace.

He said the easiest solution available to the Arabs is to threaten to withdraw from the negotiations. But this will not ultimately serve the Arab interest, he remarked, stating that the solution does not come by relinquishing the peace option, because peace is in the interest of the Arab parties. He stressed that the Arabs should realize that what they are pursuing will not be achieved offhand and that they will only achieve what they want through patience, action, and more efforts.

Touching on the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], the Egyptian ambassador pointed out that the extension is not the end of the road for demands that Israel join the Treaty and subject its nuclear program to its provisions. The most significant achievement during discussions preceding the extension was that the Israeli nuclear capability is now being examined and discussed and is no longer a forbidden zone that no one can approach, he said.

He added that Israel is now assuming a defensive position as a result and that Arab and Egyptian efforts will continue through the bilateral and multilateral negotiations in the context of the peace process to persuade Israel to subject its nuclear capability to the NPT's provisions.

The ambassador categorically denied that the United States used its aid to Egypt as an instrument of pressure during the talks preceding the Treaty's extension. He pointed out that the aid benefits the United States as much as it does Egypt and that Egypt knows it cannot continue indefinitely.

Authorities Detain 'Terrorist,' Seize Weapons

NC1305051795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2105 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) — The Higher State Security Prosecution this evening ordered the detention of terrorist Sabir 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mukhtar for 15 days pending investigations.

The prosecution charged him with sheltering a number of terrorists who returned from Afghanistan and are wanted for arrest in connection with Case No. 234 of 1995 currently under investigation.

Investigations have revealed that the suspect had given shelter to these terrorists in various locations in Cairo. The prosecution checked two of these hideouts, one in the craftsmen city and the other in the 'Ayn Shams District, and found in them weapons, bombs, a number of bullets, and forged official documents.

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The investigations also revealed that the suspect acted as a liaison between terrorists inside the country and abroad.

The state security prosecution decided to seize these two hideouts and ask the criminology laboratory to check them. The prosecution also decided to conduct an autopsy on the three terrorists' bodies and to ask the security authorities to investigate their identity.

Libya

Paper Criticizes 'Bright Star', Arab Involvement

LD1105172195 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 11 May — Today's issue of AL-SHAMS carries an article entitled U.S. Maneuvers to Occupy the Arab Homeland, in which it exposes the dangers of the so-called Bright Star exercises which are due to be held soon. Alongside the United States, a number of Arab and Western European countries will participate. The paper said: It has been announced in Cairo and Washington that the so-called Bright Star exercises will resume soon and that this time they will include other Arab and European states.

For our part we ask: Why these exercises? What are their dimensions, purposes and goals? What is their aim and their use?

Who will benefit from them — how, when and why? Other questions which have a beginning but no end pose themselves — singly or in groups, secondary and marginal or pressing and essential — without going into the internal affairs of brothers. With complete respect for the sovereignty of their [brothers'] states and the freedom of these states to take decisions and use the means and practices to implement their [words indistinct] and their policies and orientations.

What benefit is anticipated from an exercise or exercises with a state which has the strength and position of the United States? And against whom?

What potential enemy is being targeted by these exercises and firing practice with live ammunition?

But above all this, an exercise is plans, ways, means, implementation, munitions, equipment, soldiers and their readiness for battle, their field skills, level of performance, and abilities. These are some of the most important military secrets, especially those related to readiness for battle, morale, field skills and the level of military capability, as well as those related to points of strength and weakness, the level of preparedness and the element of surprise and deception, as "war is deception."

If it was natural, indisputable, and axiomatic not to offer or reveal your secrets to the enemy, then the maneuvers in which some West European countries were taking part alongside the United States created a big question mark, precisely if we discovered from studying the events, examining the facts, and analyzing the trends, that Washington was preparing itself and training the force to occupy the most important water and energy source in the Arab World, and that it wanted to inquire about the secrets of the Egyptian army in preparation for targeting it one day.

Our concern for Egypt, our fear for it, and our knowledge of what the United States was contriving and planning against it put us in a position which made it incumbent on us to reveal the dangers of the slide of the forthcoming so-called Bright Star maneuvers on the Arab World, southern Mediterranean, and, more specifically, North Africa.

It is sufficient to prove that by noting NATO's revealed enlargement and expansionist plans toward the south and the east, and the hatched plans and points of entry for the return of colonialism once more in an insolent form under flimsy pretexts and excuses [word indistinct] whole areas lying on the contact [line] with southern Europe.

The newspaper went on to say: It is also sufficient to prove the validity of our deduction and inspection of the events to put forward one single question to this effect: What would the U.S. reaction be if this maneuver and these exercises were between Arab armies, in which forces from Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, and the Great Jamahiriyah were participating, on the U.S. coast, or even the European coast? Wouldn't the situation be reversed, and would this ordinary exercise not have turned into a threatening phase for security, stability, and international peace?

It said that from these unshakeable and documented facts, the development of relations with Washington to the degree of holding exercises is a matter that definitely falls within the danger zone. There is also a lack of compatibility between the armies of Egypt and of all the Arab countries and the U.S. Army.

The [word indistinct] of being a partner in or participating in U.S. military exercises by a small emirate on the side of the Gulf would not deceive any rational person and cannot be a basis that can be relied on or depended upon, even when certain historical incidents and daily events come to the forefront. The present situation in fact shows that the United States has trained its rapid deployment forces once more in combat conditions in areas which were originally targeted. By participating in

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these maneuvers, it was testing out the weather, geography, positions, obstacles, fortifications and potentials. It was also finding out the combat readiness of the [word indistinct] fighter so that he will not be strange to them and will not surprise them when they target him.

The paper added that the aim and goal of these and other exercises is to occupy a whole nation with its reserves of petroleum and hydro power and large population. This danger must be halted, even when the situation is connected with financial aid which is tantamount to "the poison in the honey." There is no call for conditional aid whatever the [words indistinct] with his hands or criticizing the participation of Arab states in these exercises which is laughable and arouses amazement and astonishment together. Which Arab state is allowed to participate in military exercises? The newspaper asked: Were all the Arab countries allowed to participate in these maneuvers?

As for the talk about this participation, it is a "meaningless" talk from a dead side [intended] only to throw dust in the eyes and merely as a cover up. The European countries' new task and their participation in the so-called Bright Star maneuvers remain. [It is] a task which has started to ripen gradually since the increased interest in the events and developments in the Arab Maghreb, and the attempts to interfere in the [internal] affairs of its countries under flimsy pretexts into which the malicious crusading Western countries were trying to breathe life once more.

The newspaper concluded its article by saying that the new NATO policy has become apparent, and the targeted countries have nothing available to them other than preparing for confronting this new colonialism.

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Bahrain

Minister Cites 'Foreign Element' Behind Unrest

LD1305122895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0953 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 13 May, (KUNA) — A high-ranking Bahraini official stressed in a press interview published here today that the "foreign element was the drive" behind the incidents witnessed by Bahrain recently, and that there was no connection between those incidents and the internal political and social conditions.

The Bahraini prime minister, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, said in an interview with the Kuwaiti AL-WATAN newspaper that the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] countries were "always facing external ambitions, as there is somebody who endeavors to incite conflicts and internal sedition."

Shaykh Khalifah referred in this respect to the importance of rapprochement and cooperation between the council's countries, pointing out that whatever befell Bahrain would certainly affect the other countries.

He considered the council's countries to be like "rings of a chain," and that whoever wanted to toy with the security of the region "would necessarily choose the weakest ring, and Bahrain was that ring now."

He went on to say that "the foreign element was the drive" behind what happened in Bahrain, emphasizing that the Manama government had documented information confirming the role of this element in instigating those incidents.

He said that the role of the foreign element had not stopped "at encouraging, stirring up, and instigating the incidents, but went beyond all that into financing, training, and planning them", and exploiting the country's internal conditions. [passage omitted]

Tehran Reports Protestors Injured by Police Gunfire

LD1205191995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During anti-government demonstrations held in several parts of Manama, the Bahraini capital, and several other areas, a number of demonstrators were injured as a result of firing by police. According to reports Bahraini security forces made extensive use of live ammunition to confront the protestors. Eyewitnesses say this resulted in the wounding of a large number of protestors.

Following unrest in Bahrain, which began four months ago, a large number of political activists in that country have been imprisoned or exiled.

Kuwait

Canadian Senate Delegation Arrives for Visit

LD1305200895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1856 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 13 May — Senator Gerald R. Ottenheimer, deputy speaker of the Canadian Senate, arrived here tonight on an official four-day visit to Kuwait.

Senator Ottenheimer is accompanied by Senator Marcel Prud'homme. The visit is at the official invitation of Ahmad al-Sa'dun, speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, who extended the invitation when he visited Canada last year.

It is expected that the program of the Canadian delegation includes meetings with his highness the heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and those who are engaged in the National Committee on the Affairs of the POW's and Missing Persons.

The visit of Senator Ottenheimer — he occupied the position of deputy speaker of the Canadian Senate since 1992 — seeks to bolster cooperation between the two Canadian and Kuwaiti parliaments.

He was welcomed by the chairman of the parliamentary committee on Canadian-Kuwaiti friendship Deputy Talal al-Sa'id.

*Russian Cooperation in Information, Communications

95P50105C Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 5 Apr 95 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Minister of Transportation Yusif al-Rumi received in his office Arkadiy Golobkov, chairman of the Special Committee on Information Policy for the President of the Russian Commonwealth, and the members of his delegation.

They discussed common issues between the two friendly countries, especially wire and wireless communications.

The deputy explained to the Russian delegation the role that the Ministry of Transportation plays in improving communication services inside Kuwait using the best available technology.

Deputy al-Rumi added that the ministry is interested in an exchange of technical and human expertise between

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the two countries. The head of the Russian delegation expressed his country's desire to cooperate with Kuwait in the fields of communication and information and to benefit from Kuwaiti expertise through the implementationof a Kuwaiti-Russian agreement in the information field.

On the visit and his meeting with Deputy al-Rumi, Golobkov said that we hope to agree on establishing a "space bridge" between the two countries, which will facilitate cooperation in the transfer of information and other communications in the fields of production, agriculture, the private sector, oil refining and exploration, and other educational and social fields. To finalize this plan, we will form a joint committee which will include representatives from the appropriate fields, and they will put forward the proposals and plans and coordinate and follow up until the "space bridge" is a reality.

The delegation also visited the Kuwaiti College for Scientific Research and was impressed by the high level of usage of modern technology and computers at the college and its services in the information and communications fields. In response to a question by the Russian delegate about cooperation between the Ministries of Transportation and Information, Deputy al-Rumi said: "We use special networks ITM.E25 for transferring information, and in two months we will introduce the services of V SAT using two stations connected to satellites in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans." He added that we are in the process of establishing a sea-cable between the countries of the UAE [United Arab Emirates], Bahrain, and Qatar We will communicate between Kuwait, Russia, and neighboring countries through this cable.

The Russian delegation invited the deputy minister to visit Russia and learn about Russian technical advances in cable and wireless communications and information.

*Naval Forces Prepare for Joint UK Gulf Maneuvers

95P50116A Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 28 Apr 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Her Majesty the Queen's frigate Sheffield arrived yesterday in al-Shuwaykh port in preparation for joint naval maneuvers between the British and Kuwaiti naval forces.

Commander Simon Glaspy, the frigate's captain, said that although it is presently calm in the Gulf and there is not much chance for confrontation, the ship's visit to regional ports meets two main purposes: the first is to participate in enforcing the international blockade on Iraq, to watch and search the ships sailing towards Iraqi ports, and the second is that our presence confirms the availability of the forces to face any developments.

Cdr. Glaspy described the situation in the Gulf as very quiet and said that there is no friction of any kind.

About any possible threat, he said that he does not consider the Iranian Navy as a source of threat and that Iranians are just performing their national duties very efficiently and without any confrontations. They are operating in their territorial and international waters. They are also operating both "KILO"-class submarines recently bought from Russia. Cdr. Glaspy also said that there had been no antgonistic moves from these submarines or any other elements of the Iranian Navy.

Also, he said that they consider Iraq to pose the only threat in the Gulf because in spite of the fact that Desert Storm had completely wiped out its naval capabilities, there is still the possibility of suicide operations using airplanes or other means.

It should be noted that the frigate Shefield was originally designed as a fast ship for maneuvers. Its mission is reconnaissance at the head of a main fleet. In spite of the fact that it was designed to fight submarines, it is well-equiped to attack and defend itself against naval or air attacks.

Sheffield is equipped with SONAR negative and positive systems to detect submarines from a long distance and to attack them. The frigate carries two tubes with three openings each to fire torpedoes and carries two helicopters, "Sea King" or "Lynx," capable of carrying and shooting torpedoes and deep sea explosives.

The air defenses for the frigate is dependent on a "Sea Wolf GSW 25 Mark 3" rocket system that is designed to face air threats for short distances. It is a fully automated system but can be worked manually. There are also two 30-mm double cannons and two 20-mm cannons for close targets.

Furthermore, it is equipped with French made "Exosat" surface-to-surface rockets for medium range, around 25 miles, to be used against medium- and long- range targets.

*British Courts Reportedly Subpoena Envoy

95LH0120A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 6 Mar 95 p 11

[Report by unidentified correspondent in London]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Court of Justice in London has asked the British Government to address a warning to Kuwaiti Ambassador Khalid al-Duwaysan to stop sending threats to kill a former Kuwaiti Air Force pilot who took refuge in Britain following Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

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The court's request said that the ambassador had threatened officer Sulayman al-'Adasani, who was born in Britain and held British and Kuwaiti citizenship, that unless he withdrew his court case against the Kuwaiti Government and some prominent members of the ruling family, "he would be killed by the Kuwaiti intelligence."

In the first precedent of its kind in British judicial history, the Supreme Court allowed a case against the Kuwaiti Government and set 13 March to hear al-'Adasani's testimony. It is known that states and governments enjoy immunity, which no court can violate. However, in the case of al-'Adasani, the British court violated this tradition and allowed him at the end of last year to file a suit, demanding that the Kuwaiti Government pay compensation for "the terrible acts of torture to which he was subjected" following the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from his country. The court also allowed him to file other suits against three members of the al-Sabah family, relatives of the amir of Kuwait.

The court rejected an official Kuwaiti plea that "international immunity" prohibits the citizen of a state from filing a suit against his state abroad. The court accepted the pilot's claim that the acts of torture took place with the knowledge of the Kuwaiti Government and in the presence of its representatives.

Al-'Adasani said that the Kuwaiti Government has tried to prevent him from taking his case to court by "threatening me with murder and exercising relentless pressure on my family in Kuwait."

In his suit, which AL-MUHARRIR saw in full, Al-'Adasani talked about "unbelievable terrorist practices" used by three members of the al-Sabah family to "extract a false confession (by him) and his signature on a fabricated confession."

He relates, in his suit, the details and reasons for his arrest as follows:

—"When the Iraqis invaded Kuwait, I stayed in Kuwait. This is despite the fact that all my colleague pilots had escaped with their fighter aircraft to prevent them falling in the hands of the Iraqis and the fact that all the members of the al-Sabah family, including the three who arrested me and tortured me, had fled to Saudi Arabia.

—"I was born in London, but I spent most of my life in Kuwait, where I served as an officer in the Air Force. During the (Iraqi) occupation, I joined the (Kuwaiti) resistance and was seriously wounded in one of the clashes with the Iraqi Army.

—"When the Iraqis entered Kuwait, I was asked to hide a videotape showing a prominent member of the al-Sabah family, Shaykh Jabir al-Sa'ud al-Sabah, in different sexual positions with a number of women. However, one of my aides was able to get the tape, make copies, and distribute them widely without my knowledge.

—"After the liberation, Shaykh Jabir al-Sa'ud pursued all the people suspected of responsibility for the distribution of the tape. More than 140 Kuwaitis were arrested and held in detention without any charges. On 2 May 1991, the nephew of the amir of Kuwait, Talal Fahd al-Ahmad al-Sabah, led a group of armed men, with their faces covered, and stormed my house. They beat me with rifle butts and dragged me to a military jeep. They took me to one of the detention camps, where they tied my hands, blindfolded me, and began torturing me.

—"After four days, during which I was subjected to the ugliest forms of torture and violation of human dignity, they moved me to a cell and removed my blindfold. I found myself face-to-face with Jabir al-Sa'ud al-Sabah and two soldiers, one of them directing his submachine gun to my head. Jabir asked me to sign a confession, without reading it, or he will kill me.

—"As I was being led to another room to sign the confession, I saw a pregnant Palestinian woman tied to an electric chair connected to various wires. I signed the confession..., and then the shaykh released me...."

Pilot al-'Adasani continues his story: "Two days later, I went to the palace of Shaykh Jabir al-Sa'ud al-Sabah to confirm my innocence in the videotape case and offer to help him find the missing copies. However, his armed guard forcefully led me away to another palace that contained a large swimming pool. I saw six bodies floating in it. They led me to the pool and pushed my head under the water several times until I was about to drown. Then they carried me to a room inside the palace. The room was empty, except for two beds that smelled with petrol.

"Shaykh Jabir entered the room with Shaykh Talal and a third person. He lit a match and threw it over the bed, and then left the room with the others and locked the door. Fire broke out in the room. I rushed to a window overlooking the pool and found it secured with iron rods. I saw three men standing and watching the fire and smoke coming out of the window.

"...When I realized that I am going to die, I wrote on the inside of my garment the names of the two shaykhs. I wanted to expose them if I died.

"...Suddenly, the door opened and Jabir entered. I was kneeling on the floor with my hands on my face to protect my eyes. My shirt caught fire and my arms and

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other parts of my body got burned. He placed his foot on my back and poured a bottle of mineral water on me, while his guards tried to put out the fire with fire extinguishers.

"...I heard the shaykh saying to me: I am going to kill you. I immediately told him that my father knows that I am here and is expecting me back. He then ordered his men to move me to the hospital and threatened to kill me if I told my story to anyone. However, a few days later my father insisted on moving me to Britain for treatment of my burns."

Two days after the news that the British Supreme Court of Justice had subpoenaed representatives of the Kuwaiti Government on charges of torturing and trying to burn Kuwaiti pilot Sulayman al-'Adasani, a big advertisement campaign for tourism to Kuwait appeared in the form of special supplements in major British newspapers. This was an exposed attempt by the Kuwaiti information ministry to divert attention from the case, which further defamed and distorted Kuwait's image abroad.

Sources of the London newspaper THE OBSERVER, which carried these advertisements last week, say that the photographs of the pilot's burned body, published in THE INDEPENDENT newspaper two days ago, came from the International Human Rights Commission. The commission has hundreds of other photographs of Kuwaiti and Arab people who escaped to Britain, other European countries, and the United States to receive treatment for the effects of similar acts of torture, some of which were even worse.

The sources recalled the case of the Lebanese woman who received treatment in the United States, after a Kuwaiti court confirmed that regular soldiers had raped her during the Iraqi occupation. Her case is still pending, although the court sentenced a soldier to imprisonment.

The photograph in this report is from the cover of the tourism supplement of THE OBSERVER newspaper. A photograph of Information Minister Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah appears on the second page of the supplement, with a long summary about the rule of the al-Sabah family, which has been a source of Arab "pride" in the world.

Oman

UN Delegate Calls Israeli Land Seizures 'Illegal'

JN1305141695 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sultanate of Oman last night branded as illegal Israel's expropriation of Palestinian Arab lands in Jerusalem. The Sultanate added that the adoption of this measure in the Israeli-held territory is null and void and unacceptable.

In a statement at last night's UN Security Council [UNSC] session read by Ambassador Salim Bin-Muhammad al-Khusaybi, Omani permanent representative to the United Nations, the Sultanate reiterated that Israel's confiscation of 53 hectares of Arab land in East Jerusalem is illegal, in addition to the fact that this violates the agreement to defer discussion of the Jerusalem issue to the final status negotiations. This, the Omani delegate noted, has cast extremely dark shadows over the future of Arab-Israeli negotiations, and also over the issue of normalizing ties.

The statement added: Given their responsibility toward Arab-Israeli negotiations and the future of the peace process as well, the Arab states have decided to request a UNSC meeting on the issue, because the UNSC is the international agency responsible for safeguarding world security and peace.

The statement urged the UNSC to pass a resolution overruling the Israeli decision to confiscate Arab lands in Jerusalem, noting that such a resolution by the UNSC will foster Arab trust in the peace process. The statement also urged Israel to cooperate with the other sides, particularly the cosponsors of the peace conference, in order to tackle this issue and forestall further complications in the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia

Police Fail To Disperse Demonstrating Pilgrims

LD1205174795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The final stage of the hajj ritual, the stoning of the three pillars symbolizing the devil in Mina [in Saudi Arabia] came to an end today with a large number of pilgrims to the house of God stoning the great pillar amid the chants of Death to America and Death to Israel.

According to our correspondents: At midday thousands of the pilgrims to the house of God held the final stage of the hajj ritual, the stoning of the three pillars symbolizing the devil. To this end they gathered and stoned the great Satan at Mina while chanting Death to America, Death to Israel, Muslims unite, al-Quds [Jerusalem] is ours, God is one, and Khamene'i is the leader. They thus expressed their hatred toward infidels and the world arrogance.

According to these reports; Kuwaitis, Lebanese, and pilgrims from several other Islamic countries had a noticeable presence in the gathering. The powerful

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chants of the pilgrims while they were throwing stones and expressing disgust toward world arrogance and the enemies of Islam attracted another large group of pilgrims who joined them.

Meanwhile, witnessing the pilgrim's actions, the Saudi police and security forces present at the scene were taken by surprise and confusion, but acted to disperse the demonstrators. They failed, however, because of the multitude of pilgrims, and therefore the glorious gathering continued, with chants against arrogance, until the pilgrims began to leave Mina.

Following today's hajj ritual and the stoning of the three pillars, pilgrims to the house of God began returning to Holy Mecca from which they will leave for their own country or will visit the shrine of the great prophet of Islam in blessed Medina.

United Arab Emirates

Israeli 'Expansionist' Measures Condemned at UN

JN1305164995 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, May 13 (WAKH) — The UAE [United Arab Emirates] has strongly condemned the illegitimate Israeli expansionist measures in the occupied Arab territories and the confiscation of new Arab land in east Jerusalem to establish Jewish settlements.

'Aysan al-Suwaydi, the acting charge d'affaires of the UAE permanent mission at the U.N., said in a statement at the U.N. Security Council during discussion of the situation in the occupied Arab territories that the Israeli measures were meant to uproot Arab presence, obscure Arab rights, and impose the status quo before starting negotiations on the future of Jerusalem as provided in the Palestinian-Israeli peace accord.

Yemen

'Sources' Deny 'Imminent' Cabinet Reshuffle

JN1405200095 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 15 May 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa — In a statement to AL-MUHARRIR, special Yemeni sources have denied reports on an imminent cabinet reshuffle in Yemen, which would include Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani himself. These sources said that 'Abd-al-Ghani's government has overcome the minor differences which led to the suspension of the work of three ministers for various reasons. The sources added that the government has resumed its regular activities.

AL-MUHARRIR has learned that Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Faysal Bin-Shamlan, independent, will resume his work immediately after the 'Id al-Adha holidays. Bin-Shamlan stayed in his birthplace, Hadhramaut, boycotting the Council of Ministers' meetings and tendering his resignation after he called for independent decisionmaking by the Oil Ministry, taking into consideration that other sides used to influence its decision, something that led to the absence of unified decisionmaking on investment in the oil field, which was to the advantage of the foreign companies.

This situation also urged Supply and Trade Minister 'Abd-al- Wahhab Jubari, from the Yemeni Reform Grouping, to resign in protest of the media campaign launched against him by the organs of the General People's Congress [GPC], which blamed him for the deterioration of the supply situation in the country.

Interior Minister Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil, from the GPC, had earlier been quoted as saying that he resigned for health reasons, and that he has been suffering for the past four months, something which led to the suspension of his responsibilities. Reports said that he left for the United States for treatment, and that he has recently returned to Yemen.

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Presence of UN Chemical Weapons Delegation Noted

JN1205195495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 12 May (INA)—This evening, Baghdad time, the UN Security Council held unofficial consultations to review the blockade imposed on Iraq.

After the unofficial consultations concluded, the Security Council's president stated that the council made the 25th review of the sanctions regime in accordance with Paragraph 21 of Resolution 687 and that the council members made general statements.

He said Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, will visit Baghdad and submit a monthly report at the end of this month. Ekeus will submit a semi-annual report in the middle of next month. He added that there is a delegation from the UN Special Commission in Baghdad to discuss some issues related to chemical weapons.

INA Reports UNSC Sanctions Debate

JN1305155295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 13 May (INA)—The UN Security Council [UNSC] yesterday evening held a session of unofficial discussions to review the Iraq sanctions in accordance with Paragraph 21 of Resolution 687.

At the outset of the session, the French delegate to the United Nations who is also the current UNSC president, briefed UNSC members on the details of the meeting he held with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf yesterday morning ahead of the UNSC session.

The UNSC president said the Iraqi foreign minister informed him of the reasons that prompted Iraq to reject Resolution 986. One of those reasons, the UNSC president said, is the provision enshrined in the resolution that the largest part of the Iraqi oil to be exported should go through the Turkish oil pipeline. The Iraqi foreign minister told him that this is a serious precedent, because it reflects interference in Iraq's ties with other states. The Iraqi foreign minister also argued that the deduction of revenues to be placed under the control of the United Nations in order to disburse them to three governorates in northern Iraq constitutes a violation of Iraqi sovereignty that would consecrate the separatist drive in northern Iraq.

The UNSC president added that the Iraqi foreign minister explained that the UNSC dealt with Iraq through this resolution as if it has not extended any cooperation, whereas Iraq has always been willing to cooperate with the UNSC and the Special Commission.

The UNSC president went on to say that he raised the issue of the missing Kuwaitis in the meeting with the foreign minister. He said that the minister answered him, saying that the resolution of this issue will take some time, citing the issue of the MIA's in the Vietnam war, the fate of which is still being debated by the United States and Vietnam. The Iraqi foreign minister noted that Iraq is extending the necessary cooperation and working seriously with the tripartite committee and the International Committee of the Red Cross to resolve this issue.

Afterward, the British ambassador spoke. He criticized Iraq's rejection of Resolution 986, which he termed a "humanitarian resolution." The British ambassador could not deny Iraq's cooperation, saying: There was slight progress in Iraq's fulfillment of its commitments over the past two months. Nonetheless, he repeated the British allegations he voices at all UNSC sessions regarding Iraq's noncompliance with the remaining relevant resolutions.

The Argentine ambassador spoke next, repeating the British envoy's allegations. The Italian ambassador, however, commended Iraq's cooperation to enhance the efficiency of the monitoring regime. He demanded that Iraq continue to cooperate in implementing the Security Council resolutions, regretting Iraq's rejection of Resolution 986.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright spoke next, repeating the allegations she makes every review session, saying that Iraq is not cooperating in implementing all Security Council resolutions. She lashed out at Iraq for rejecting Resolution 986.

For his part, the PRC envoy asserted that the PRC Government's position is unequivocal. On the one hand, Iraq must continue to cooperate with the United Nations. On the other, the Security Council must fulfill its obligations and view Iraq's cooperation positively.

The PRC envoy added that Iraq has taken measures to maintain security on the border with Kuwait. Iraq is also cooperating with the UN Special Commission in the field of weapons destruction, he said. Iraq has also promised to provide more information in the biological field, he added. Based on this, the PRC hopes that the UN Special Commission will present a positive report to the Security Council, so it may fulfill its obligations under Paragraph 22 and consider lifting the oil embargo against Iraq.

The Indonesian representative said Iraq has made some efforts to meet its obligations and that the Security

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Council should acknowledge the progress made by Iraq regarding the weapons destruction, the monitoring regime, the recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and border, the calm situation on the border, and its continued cooperation with the UN Special Commission.

The Indonesian representative said that the sanctions harm Iraqi citizens and Iraq's neighbors. He said that Ekeus' recent report expressed the Special Commission's satisfaction with Iraq's cooperation. The Indonesian representative called on the UNSC to gradually amend the sanctions system.

The Russian ambassador then addressed the council. He said the monitoring system is working efficiently, particularly in the biological field. Referring to the issue of the missing Kuwaitis, the Russian ambassador said the Red Cross should submit regular reports on the activities of the three-way committee. He said Russian experts will continue to offer assistance and advice, adding that the settlement of this issue depends on the cooperation of the parties concerned.

The Russian representative said his country's stand is not based on a policy of everything or nothing, and that the issue should not be viewed from the perspective of whether or not sanctions are to be lifted, but from the perspective that there can be a gradual lifting of the sanctions. He added that, as a first step, the oil embargo could be lifted. He said Iraq's rejection of Resolution 986 could have been avoided if the UNSC had dealt positively with the Iraqi reservations about the resolution.

As for Botswana's ambassador, he referred to the positive points realized in the field of mass destruction weapons and the important and positive cooperation with the Special Commission. He also called for settling the issue of the missing Kuwaitis and supplying the committee with the needed information in the biological field.

The German representative then read a short statement affirming he shares the viewpoints of those who spoke before him on the need to have Iraq fulfill its obligations. He said Iraq's cooperation on the issue of the missing Kuwaitis will help build confidence between the council and Iraq.

The speech of the Honduran ambassador was similar to that of the German ambassador.

The Nigerian ambassador said his country opposes the policy of implementing everything or nothing and also appeals to Iraq to show more cooperation.

Allowed by the UN Security Council's president to speak, the Rwandan delegate made a brief speech and said that Rwanda fully supports the U.S. position. This made some delegates laugh.

The Czech and Omani delegates then spoke, urging Iraq to show more cooperation.

The council's president then spoke in his capacity as France's delegate, and said that his country urges Iraq to cooperate with the United Nations and the Special Commission; that as soon as the council obtains a report from the Special Commission, it should study the lifting of the oil embargo in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687; and that the Iraqi Government should accept monitoring and inspection after this paragraph is applied.

He pointed out that important progress has been made over the past months and that this progress should not stop.

Following the end of the unofficial consultations, the U.S. delegate urged the council to issue a statement saying that the council did not find any justification for reconsidering the sanctions. But the ambassadors of China, Russia, and France foiled the attempt and decided to maintain the usual formula, namely, that the council's president make a statement to the press saying that it had reviewed the sanctions in accordance with Paragraph 21 of Resolution 687.

Observers noticed that the U.S. and British delegates were the only who criticized Iraq's rejection of Resolution 986. The rest of the Security Council's members only expressed their regret.

The impression is that the chapter of Resolution 986 was closed, in practice.

Most of the representatives of the member states, whom Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met, showed readiness to work to implement Paragraph 22 as soon as Ekeus submits his final report without new reservations.

Sanctions Extension Reveals 'Hostile' U.S. Policy

JN1305201095 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1828 GMT 13 May 95

[From the "Spotlight on the News" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] The extension of the unfair sanctions clamped on the people of Iraq has elicited sweeping indignation and anger inside and outside Iraq. Meanwhile, diplomatic sources in New York have noted the U.S. double standards and the contradictions plaguing the U.S. policy toward Arab issues. This has been particularly manifest in the flagrant U.S. bias

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toward the Zionist entity. Details of this are contained in the following commentary:

The extension of the embargo clamped on Iraq exposes anew the hostile nature of the U.S. policy, which is targeted against the Arab nation's security and future. It is no coincidence that the decision to extend the Iraq sanctions came at a time when Washington is defending the Zionist entity from the pulpit of the United Nations, and declaring its readiness to veto any draft resolution that condemns the expansionist Zionist policy. Washington has forced the Arab regimes associated with it to endorse the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty although the Zionist entity refused to subscribe to this treaty, and regardless of the fact that the Zionist nuclear threat always looms in the horizon. This entity could use nuclear weapons against the Arab nation in defiance of all international resolutions and international law.

The abuse of international legitimacy by the United States, author and architect of the new world order, has jeopardized this legitimacy. International legitimacy is no longer guided by familiar objective guidelines. Now, the disparity between the principles allegedly upheld by the United States under the new world order and the U.S. conduct has become manifest. The United States has employed double standards in its handling of international conflicts. This conduct is at the heart of colonialist and imperialist policies.

The might of the United States is derived from its imperialism, the tool of coercion. U.S. imperialism, which is fed by military might, thrives on looting. This world order, which is vehemently anti-Arab, has caused several catastrophes, the most flagrant of which was the imperialist 30-state aggression against Iraq, the paragon of Arab struggle. This aggression sought to drastically destabilize the balance of power in the Arab region in favor of the Zionist entity, the imperialists' main forward post created to protect vital Western and U.S. interests.

As a matter of fact, the Zionist-imperialist military crusade against Iraq has inflicted colossal harm on the Arabs, and immensely undermined their pan-Arab security. This is because Iraq has always served as the center of Arab weight. It has always been a staunch defender of pan-Arab causes and an inspiration to Arab revolutionaries.

The Western-U.S. handling of Arab issues is meant to achieve a colonialist-imperialist objective, as has been evinced in their handling of the Palestine question, the Arabs' central cause; the anti-Iraq aggression, and the ceaseless harassment of Libya and several other Arab countries. What draws amazement and wonder is the fact that the imperialist policy draws strength from the unity of the alliances it has forged in the course of its aggressions and hostile policies against the Arab nation. The international community has urged the UN Security Council to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and support their just cause, particularly since Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments. Meanwhile, the servile Arab regimes have maintained silence to epitomize their association with imperialism regarding the perpetuation of the Iraq sanctions. This reflects a growing state of subservience. It follows from this that these regimes are acquiescing to the dictates of the White House and Zionists. They are serving as tools of sabotage in order to thwart the Arab nation's goals of unity and liberation.

Paper Regrets UN 'Capitulation' to U.S.

JN1405104195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0746 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has assailed the U.S. Administration's animosity toward Iraq and persistence in misleading the UN Security Council through fabricated issues to block any attempt to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq.

In an analysis today, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party paper holds the international community responsible for countering Washington's farce of maintaining the blockade through the UN Security Council. It cautions that this game threatens the peace, security, and stability sought to be established by mankind. In addition, the paper says, this policy contravenes all international laws and norms and every civilized form of human relations.

The paper extremely regrets the various forms of capitulation displayed by the United Nations and its institutions, and their submission to the U.S. Administration, its pressures and instructions. The paper says that while the UN Security Council has been under the aggressive and evil U.S. hegemony, the UN Security Council member states have not adopted any effective stand to support right, justice, and fairness.

AL-THAWRAH says that those states were markedly dissociated from the hostile U.S. policy during the Security Council debates. However, the paper continues, those states' inaction makes it difficult to attach any credibility to the UN Security Council and its Resolution 687, which includes obligations toward Iraq. Those obligations must be honored since Iraq has honored the requirements of other articles of the resolution.

The paper says: It is unreasonable for the UN Security Council member states to pause at every periodic review of the Iraq sanctions to look at photographs presented by Madeleine Albright under various pretexts.

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Drawing readers' attention to the fact that the issue of Iraqi chemical weapons was raised again during the recent debates, the paper says: We, as well as a large number of Western diplomats, are aware that there is U.S. influence inside the Special Commission, which is headed by Ekeus, thus preventing the presentation of any accurate picture of Iraq's cooperation with the Special Commission.

AL-THAWRAH expresses amazement at the contradiction between the latest review session and the one which preceded it. The paper indicates that during the previous review session, Ekeus said that "Iraq cooperated fully and satisfactorily in all fields of discussion concerning weapons of mass destruction."

The paper refers to reports released by the UN Security Council during its 12 May session noting contradictory information about chemical weapons. The paper asks with astonishment: Is it reasonable for Ekeus to reopen a file that was closed in accordance with information compiled by his teams and inspectors?

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Peres on Land Expropriation, Oslo Talks, NPT

TA1305150195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 13 May 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent 'Adi Talmor; place not given; from the "In the Current Situation" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Talmor] Mr. Peres, is it possible to say that you are not happy with the timing of the land expropriation in East Jerusalem?

[Peres] I do not think I should divulge my personal feelings here. We are in the midst of a struggle and a campaign, and in a campaign one does not deal with one's personal feelings, rather all should stand united against the attack being waged against us. We must carefully consider how to get out of this problem. I believe the best and wisest way of dealing with the matter is for us to come up and say that we must take care of the Arab residents just as we do for the Jews. Whoever divides Jerusalem on the basis of land or population is actually redividing Jerusalem. After all, the municipality belongs to all residents, both the Jews and Arabs — just as we are the government of all the residents. Therefore, if the housing needs of Jews are being taken care of, the same should be done for the non-Jews; otherwise, we will be unable to preserve the unity of the city.

[Talmor] Will the government adopt any decisions regarding this issue in its session tomorrow?

[Peres] Look, the government has already made its decisions, and it is uncustomary for a government to give up in the middle of a campaign, and I do not think it should do so. There is room, however, for balancing the situation, answering needs, and viewing the future. All the declarations to the effect that we will confiscate more land are totally uncalled for. One would think that our situation is that simple. Throughout the process we have warned that we must not unite all our enemies on the Jerusalem issue. Jerusalem is not surrounded only by mountains, but also by enemies. So just as we cannot move mountains, we should not look for making more enemies.

[Talmor] You seem to say, then, that the cabinet will not adopt any decision to freeze the expropriation plan.

[Peres] Look, it would be presumptuous of me to say what will happen in tomorrow's cabinet session, because there are ministers with different opinions, and there are bound to be different proposals. I can only tell you what I think, and that is what I have done.

[Talmor] Mr. Peres, I understand that you personally and the Foreign Ministry in general were unaware of the expropriation, which came as a complete surprise to you. Neither the cabinet nor the inner cabinet had discussed this issue.

[Peres] The decisions were made in neither the cabinet nor the inner cabinet.

[Talmor] Do you fear that this affair could spell the end of the peace process?

[Peres] I do not think so; however, it would seem that explosives were being amassed here. Why should we provide others with cash for buying explosives? We do not need this. The whole issue is merely a matter of passion, pathos, ostentation, and obstreperousness. What is this good for?

[Talmor] Prime Minister Rabin has said that the Palestinians have not halted the negotiations. You are saying, however, that 1 July is no longer a sacred date. How long does Israel intend to drag out the negotiations with the Palestinians?

[Peres] I said no such thing. Moreover, we are not holy people negotiating over sacred declarations. We are dealing with political issues, and we have undertaken to do everything possible to complete the negotiations by 1 July. Yesterday morning we held a meeting and decided to accelerate the negotiations. If the Palestinian side also agrees to compromise there are good chances for completing the negotiations by 1 July.

[Talmor] What if they do not agree to compromise?

[Peres] Then we will have to conduct the negotiations beyond that date. Look, negotiations depend on two sides, and we are responsible for our side only. For our part, we have implemented quite far-reaching moves in the elections issue. In fact, except for some issues which remain unsolved, enormous progress has been achieved. We are negotiating over the transfer of powers. In the Cairo meeting we announced that we will transfer five powers in addition to the five we have already transferred to the Palestinians. So even before the negotiations end we will have transferred 10 out of 38 powers, and this provides the Palestinian Authority with status in all the territories. We are not pulling backwards; we are not playing a game of tug of war. We have here a very serious attempt to reach an agreement over the second stage while faced with indescribable difficulties on the ground. I know that we are determined to abide by our word; we are serious and sincere in this issue.

[Talmor] Finally, Mr. Peres, I want to turn to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]. Now that we can say the affair is over, can you tell us what adverse

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role Egypt has played in this affair, from Israel's point of view?

[Peres] It is clear that Egypt failed to achieve what it wanted in this issue. It is also clear that Israel can live with the UN resolution on this issue. At the present time we are much more concerned about what is happening in Iran than with what happened in the United Nations.

Cabinet Land Expropriation Decision Reported

TA1405124395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet approved the land expropriation package planned in Jerusalem. The four Meretz ministers opposed the decision, while four Labor ministers — Liba'i, Bar'am, Namir, and Shetrit — abstained. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that a proposal by Yosi Sarid to annul the expropriation garnered the support of the Meretz ministers only. The prime minister's proposal, which was the one adopted, brought about the opposition of Meretz ministers and the abstention of four Labor ministers. Minister Shetrit was unwilling to support the proposal because it imposes no time limit. After the session ended, Cabinet Secretary Shmu'el Hollander explained that the decision means that henceforth the government will not expropriate any land for housing purposes in Jerusalem. Minister Ben-Eli'ezer said that to the best of his knowledge there is no need to expropriate land in Jerusalem for public needs in the next two years. Minister Gonen Segev said, on the other hand, that if the need arises more land will be expropriated. The cabinet also decided to establish a ministerial team tasked with issuing building permits for East Jerusalem Arabs.

The cabinet also discussed the negotiations with Syria. The prime minister said that Israel and the United States share the opinion that President al-Asad is demanding more than Egypt had received at the time. Foreign Minister Peres said that in his talks in Cairo he had explained to President Mubarak the difference between the 4 June 1967 border with Syria and the international border. Syria is demanding that Israel withdraw to the 4 June 1967 border.

Rabin: 'Enough Areas' Now Held

TA1505044995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the land confiscations in the Gilo and Har Homa areas were necessary and justified but that there was no need for further expropriations. He told reporter Jack Katzenell that six months ago, he refused to authorize expropriation of Arab land for the East Gate housing project.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I believe that we had to do it in areas in which it was needed to expand existing Jewish quarters, like Ramot, like in the area of Gilo — for public purposes in Gilo — and to take out of the Russian center in the middle of the city the police headquarters of the Jerusalem District. I believe that this is the way that it has to be done. I believe that we have now enough areas to build, including Har Homa-A, and of course, expanding in areas that such building can be done without expropriation.

[Katzenell] Was this not an admission, though, that the expropriation was perhaps morally wrong and even a political mistake?

[Rabin] No. I'll tell you why. The proposal to carry out this act was brought to me with Sha'ar Mizrah and other two places. Six months ago, I said: Only the two. [end recording]

Letters Sent to Jordan, Morocco on Land Expropriation

TA1405184195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has sent a letter to his Jordanian counterpart 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti in which he explains the reasons for the land expropriations in Jerusalem.

In his letter, Foreign Minister Peres stressed that emphasis would also be placed on the needs of the Arab population in Jerusalem. The letter was delivered to the Jordanian Foreign Minister by Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Shim'on Shamir.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem are currently preparing a letter on the land expropriations to Morocco's King Hassan. The letter, which will explain Israel's position, will be signed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Arab Parties File No-Confidence Motions Over Land Seizure

TA1505092795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab Democratic Party has decided to submit a motion of no confidence in the government following the decision to expropriate land in Jerusalem, our correspondent Yo'el Nir was told at the Knesset by Knesset Member Talib al-Sani'.

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Earlier, the HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] faction announced its intention to submit a no-confidence motion over the expropriations. The opposition parties' plans regarding the vote on the no-confidence motions is unclear.

Our correspondent reports that at midday, the prime minister will convene the coalition factions for a debate in preparation for the Knesset's first summer session and the political debate scheduled for this afternoon.

Shahal on Orient House Meetings, al-Husayni Talks

TA1505075395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 15 May 95

[Telephone interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by Hayim Zissowitz on 15 May; place and date not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Minister Shahal.

[Shahal] Good morning, Hayim.

[Zissowitz] I would like to start with the incident with the Swedish deputy prime minister, who was prevented from visiting Orient House, as a result of which she canceled all the political meetings she was slated to hold here and returned home. Did we act properly in this matter?

[Shahal] I believe we definitely did. People who come to visit us should accept the rules of protocol and other rules, as is the case in other sovereign countries. For instance, it would be unthinkable for me to meet with people demanding Corsican secession from France while visiting Paris.

[Zissowitz] Does it denote a change in our policy toward visitors who wish to visit Orient House? Not all visitors have been prevented from making such visits to date.

[Shahal] No. At first we tried to do it through hints and comments. This was successful, as was the case with the British prime minister, if you remember it. The visit of the British foreign minister or deputy foreign minister was prevented by applying protocol, so to speak: an announcement that the visit's agenda will not include Orient House. In others cases, things have to be stated more explicitly.

[Zissowitz] Will we treat heads of state, not mere deputies, in the same manner?

[Shahal] As head of the team on Jerusalem matters, I have made an unqualified recommendation: People on official visits to this country should not be able to visit any place without our consent.

[Zissowitz] Yesterday you met with Faysal al-Husayni on the land expropriation issue, after the cabinet decided there will be no more land expropriations. Were you able to convince him that the Palestinians should be able to ease up on the struggle in the wake of the cabinet decision?

[Shahal] I think that last night we had a fine, serious conversation, which was conducted in a very serious atmosphere. What I mainly did at the meeting was present the facts, because I thought there was a need to present data that refute charges that we are confiscating thousands of dunams. The world was under the impression that the issue involved many kilometers of confiscated land. The facts are different.

The other thing at the meeting was al-Husayni's presentation of facts as the Palestinians see them, of problems encountered by Jerusalem's Arab population. The conversation was quite lengthy. We concluded by deciding to continue the dialogue. I assume he will brief his colleagues at the Palestinian Authority or in Jerusalem on the content of the conversation, while I will brief the prime minister and the foreign minister. All in all, I think last night's meeting contributed to calming tempers and to a better understanding of the situation, and it helped us present the facts to residents with whom we would like to live in an orderly and stable fashion. It also helped us to hear their grievances, because I think they, too, have problems which we should not ignore.

[Zissowitz] I would like to ask you another short question. Labor's Avigdor Qahalani appeared at a Third Way meeting yesterday. He called for establishing a new party and announced the launching of several independent local initiatives related to the Golan. Does he still belong in Labor?

[Shahal] Look, I think we are not about to ban the expression of views. We are a pluralistic party. I differentiate between the expressing stands and taking action. I hope Knesset Member Qahalani will stop at some line without crossing over to activities that are incompatible with belonging to the party, because one cannot belong to one party and make advances toward another at the same time.

[Zissowitz] I understand he has not crossed that line yet.

[Shahal] I do not think he has.

[Zissowitz] Thank you, Minister Moshe Shahal, and good morning to you.

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Sweden's Sahlin Cuts Visit Short Over Orient House Ban

TA1505062895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Swedish Deputy Prime Minister Mona Sahlin has cut short her visit to Israel because the Foreign Ministry barred her from visiting Orient House, the Palestinian headquarters in East Jerusalem. Foreign Minister Peres said Israel refused to approve the meeting with Faysal al-Husayni because Sahlin was not there on a political visit.

Sahlin yesterday took part in jubilee ceremonies for Sweden's part in a secret operation in which thousands of Jews were saved from the Nazis. In the effort, the head of the Swedish Red Cross, Count Folke Bernadotte, helped rescue Jews from camps, such as Bergen-Belsen and Theresienstadt, bringing them to Sweden and Denmark.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 15 May carries a related report on page 1 by David Makovsky, adding that Peres, addressing assembled Swedish dignitaries at a ceremony "last night," said that "Israel wants to make clear that it condemns the killing of Swedish mediator Count Folke Bernadotte, and thereby hopes — once and for all — that tensions with Sweden over this issue have dissipated."]

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Al-Kabariti: Israeli Decision on Land 'Not Enough'

JN1505103395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 May 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan said Sunday [14 May] an Israeli decision not to confiscate any more Palestinian-owned land in Jerusalem was a positive step but that it was not enough to satisfy Jordanian demands that Israel abide by United Nations resolutions pertaining to the Holy City.

Foreign Miniser 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti also welcomed reported moves to convene an Arab summit to discuss the Israeli seizure of 53 hectares of Arab land in Jerusalem and said the Kingdom always supported collective Arab action on issues of common concern.

Mr al-Kabariti, speaking to the Jordan Times after a meeting with Israeli Ambassador Shim'on Shamir who delivered to him a message from israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, reiterated the Jordanian stand that Arab East Jerusalem was occupied Arab territory covered under United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

"As far as Jordan is concerned, Arab East Jerusalem is part of the territory that israel seized on June 4, 1967, and, as such, any Israeli move to confiscate land there violates the letter and spirit of Resolution 242 as well as the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty," Mr. al-Kabariti said.

The foreign minister said the message he received from Mr. Peres was a reply to a protest he lodged through the Jordanian ambassador to Israel, Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, against the Israeli confiscation of land.

Mr. Peres' message, Mr. al-Kabariti told the Jordan Times, "contained the usual justifications and statistics that israel has been releasing to defend its move."

But, Mr. al-Kabariti said, he made it clear during his meeting with Ambassador Shamir that the Israeli justifications were not acceptable, and Jordan remained firm on its rejection of any Israeli move to seize Arab-owned land.

The foreign minister said an Israeli cabinet decision on Sunday not to confiscate any more Palestinian land in Jerusalem "was a positive step but not enough" since it was coupled with a vow not to go back on their earlier decision to seize 53 hectares of land.

"The Israeli move does not satisfy Jordan's demands," said Mr. al-Kabariti.

An Israeli embassy spokesman quoted by the Associated Press said Mr. Peres reiterated to Mr. al-Kabariti "and Jordanian leaders that two-thirds of the land had been confiscated from Jews and it belonged to them.

"The letter stressed that the land confiscation was for demographic and nonpolitical reasons," said the spokesman, who was not identified.

Mr. al-Kabariti welcomed as positive reported Arab League moves to convene a summit conference of six Arab heads of state to discuss the Israeli seizure of land.)

While Jordan has not received any official notification of a summit conference, the Kingdom "welcomes any meeting of top-level Arab leadership to discuss issues of common interest and adopt collective action," Mr. al-Kabariti said.

"This has always been Jordan's position," he added.

U.S. Debt Relief

Mr. al-Kabariti also welcomed a recent decision by the two Houses of the U.S. Congress to approve a bill that contains $275 million in outlays to write off nearly $500 million of Jordan's debts to Washington, but said the move was not final yet.

"The bill contains many other items that have prompted President Bill clinton to threaten to veto it in its present form," Mr. al- Kabariti noted.

"This is a process that would take a long time," he said. "However, Jordan appreciates the move by the Senate and House of Representatives to endorse debt relief for Jordan in their joint meetng."

The bill will now be sent to the Senate and House of Representatives for their approval and then sent to the White House, where its fate will be decided.

Al-Kabariti on U.S. Committee Decision on Debts

JN1405164295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has expressed his appreciation for the important decision made by a joint committee of the two Appropriation Committees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The joint committee decided to provide $275 million to relieve Jordan of its debts to the United States.

Answering a question from the Jordanian News Agency, al-Kabariti said that despite the importance of this decision, certain measures still need to be taken before the proposal becomes legal.

He pointed out that the relief decision is linked to other decisions related to domestic issues such as emergency aid for the California earthquake and the large-scale reduction of spending on domestic programs, which also needs approval by the committee. Afterward, the

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overall project will be referred to the Senate and the House of Representatives separately for approval. Finally, it will be referred to the U.S. President for endorsement if he agrees to all decisions within the proposal, including a reduction in general spending, which the U.S. Administration had previously rejected.

Paper: 'Foolish' U.S. Practices Threaten Talks

JN1405112095 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 May 95 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "The American Paradox at the Security Council"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ever since the Security Council was called to convene a special session to debate Israel's confiscation of Arab land in the occupied city of Jerusalem, U.S. spokesmen at the United Nations have continued to voice their objection to holding this session and threatened to veto any resolution that might be passed by the Security Council.

Such an excessively Zionist U.S. position almost surpasses the position of Yitzhaq Rabin's government in its fervent support for the confiscation decision. Even some members of the Israeli Government condemned that decision and called for either freezing or rescindingit in order to stave off mounting international pressures on Israel as a result of this provocative step.

This U.S. position, which is more Israeli than that of the Israeli Government itself, is in line with the position which is beginning to jell in the U.S. Congress vis-a-vis moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Meanwhile, some ruling circles in Israel believe that the U.S. Congress move is uncalled for, at least at this time.

In light of these two U.S. paradoxical attitudes, we bitterly ask: Why have the U.S. envoys to the Security Council and the Congress leaders of the only superpower become servants of the most radical Israeli policies and most extreme anti-peace attitudes—especially those policies and attitudes embraced by the Israeli Government's hawks and extremists?

While following the Security Council's debates and international positions being adopted and announced from that lofty international podium, we call for further solidity in the current Arab position. We also call for stepping up Arab pressures on the United States, in its capacity as the real sponsor of the peace process, so as to urge it to forge ahead with playing its vital role as an honest mediator of the peace process. This process could collapse not only because of some foolish Israel practices but also due to some more foolish U.S. practices.

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Press on UN Debates on Land Seizures, NPT

JN1405075895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 May 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN comments on the UN Security Council debates, which started two days ago, on Israel's decision to confiscate 53 hectares of land in Jerusalem to build more settlements. The paper says: Undoubtedly, the Israeli measures not only dissociate Jerusalem from its Palestinian Arab surrounding in the West Bank, but also reveal that the Oslo agreement has given the Israelis an excuse to seize Arab territory and violate the Palestinian people's rights.

TISHRIN adds: If the UN Security Council member states' debates and deliberations point to the possibility of issuing a resolution condemning the land confiscation measures and settlement activity, that will not remove all the effects and consequences of the Oslo agreement, especially concerning the wasted national and pan-Arab rights of the Palestinian people. The paper says that annulling the Israeli decision to confiscate land, halting settlement building, enabling the Palestinians to fully restore their territory, and ending the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip will contribute to putting an end to Israel's terms and dictates and to the gains that it has scored under the Oslo agreement.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: The UN Security Council, while shouldering its international political responsibilities, must maintain and implement its resolutions in a way that ensures the legitimate Palestinian national and pan-Arab rights. The Israeli allegations aimed at controlling the Palestinians and annulling their rights are a flagrant defiance of the bases of international law and the principles of right and justice.

For its part, AL-BA'TH discusses the world conference on the nuclear Non—Proliferation Treaty [NPT] which concluded in Washington [as heard] yesterday. The chairman of the conference concluded that at the end of the conference there were no losers or winners. The paper says that facts prove the exact opposite of the conclusions of the chairman of the conference. Indeed, there were winners and there were losers.

AL-BA'TH says that the losers are not the Arab states only, but also all the states that are not in possession of nuclear weapons and that have not even considered possessing such weapons. The world, which considers the indefinite extension a blow to the NPT credibility, is also a loser. The paper adds: During both hot and cold wars, nuclear weapons posed a threat to the world security as a whole. Now, nuclear weapons pose the most serious threat and danger to the Middle East security. In light of this, one can tell which party has emerged a winner from the New York conference. It is universally acknowledged that Israel possesses an arsenal of nuclear weapons, and the results of the conference enable it to bolster and develop the weapons it already possesses away from any control or obligations.

AL-BA'TH indicates that Israel refused to join the NPT in the first place and rejected the principle of renewal for a specific period of time. More importantly, Israel rejected and continues to reject any international inspection of its nuclear installations. The paper says that Israel, constantly seeking qualitative superiority over the Arabs and other area states, has bolstered this endeavor through the results of the New York conference so as to ensure its military hegemony and control the region's resources, especially the economy.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel has won in terms of receiving support for its intransigent stand not only toward the NPT, but also toward the peace process.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Israel's terms for joining the NPT, which it linked to the achievement of peace, are self-contradictory. How can Israel work for peace while at the same time it reinforces its nuclear arsenal?

Press Urges U.S. To 'Reactivate' Peace Process Role

JN1505065395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 15 May 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, TISHRIN asserts that Syria's sincere desire for peace no longer requires any proof. Syria has made immense efforts toward this end and repeatedly saved the peace process from Israel's mines and deliberate sabotage. Syria has also strongly supported U.S. and international efforts and made the success of the peace process contingent only on the implementation of the Security Council resolutions and the land-for- peace principle.

The paper points out that for over three and a half years, Israel has been busy creating obstacles. It has also pursued a policy of maneuvering and procrastination in an exposed bid to evade the obligations of peace, especially full withdrawal and the return of its occupying troops to the 4 June 1967 lines.

The paper adds: In their statements, Israeli officials publicly admit that they reject full withdrawal and return to the previous lines. They also reject the principle of balanced [mutawazinah] and equitable [mutakafi'ah] security arrangements, insisting on a policy of expansion and hegemony.

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TISHRIN goes on: The best evidence of Israeli arrogance and disregard for the resolutions and principles of the international community is Israel's refusal to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and place its facilities under international inspection. Instead, Israel stockpiles weapons and threatens to carry out aggression, at a time when the Israeli officials demand disarming the Arabs.

The paper adds: Syria, which has sincerely and honestly responded to international efforts and shown all possible flexibility, can only reiterate time and again that peace is impossible without a substantial change in Israel's position on full withdrawal and the acknowledgment of Arab rights.

Concluding its commentary, the paper demands that the U.S. Administration reactivate its role in line with the commitments it has made and exercise strong influence on Israel to have the Security Council resolutions implemented and secure Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

AL-BA'TH comments on Israel's seizure of Arab land to expand settlement activity in occupied Jerusalem. The proposal to seize land was made by Rabin himself, who claims eagerness to establish peace in the region.

The paper says: If anything, this Israeli decision shows beyond a shadow of doubt that Israel is still pursuing its expansionist policy, which has not stopped. Apparently, this policy will not stop until Israel achieves all its expansionist ambitions.

AL-BA'TH notes that partial and separate agreements have created the circumstances that promote Israel's objectives and expansionist ambitions. Any quick review of what Israel has been doing on the ground shows that the Tel Aviv government is not seeking a just and comprehensive peace in the region. On the contrary, it is seeking to expand its entity at the expense of the Arabs and to impose its political, military, and economic hegemony on the region.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Syria, which is working very seriously and honestly to establish a real peace, reasserts that it will not accept anything short of full Israeli withdrawal from its occupied territories to the 4 June 1967 borders. Any talk contrary to this firm, principled stance will be rejected, whatever the circumstances.

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Afghanistan

Coverage of Clashes in Farah and Nimruz Provinces

Governor, 'Foreign Subjects' Arrested

LD1105172695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the course of a mopping-up operation carried out in Farah Province, 50 pseudo-Taleban militia, including seven foreign subjects, have been arrested.

A source of the southwestern zone reports to the BAKHTAR correspondent that the Taleban militiamen have fled as a result of a mopping-up operation carried out in Farah Province. Ubaydollah, the so-called governor; security commander; and the head of security are among the 47 people [number as heard] who were captured by the Islamic Army forces. Seven foreign subjects are also among those captured. The militiamen have fled the southern sections of Farah Province and have left behind their weapons.

The Islamic Army is advancing toward Nimruz Province, and this province has been cut off from Helmand Province.

Esteemed Mohammad Esmail, general amir of the southwestern zone, accompanied by the province's leadership delegation, has visited the front line. Commending the fighters in all fronts, he gave necessary instructions. Meanwhile, foreign journalists have also visited Farah Province and the front lines of the battle.

Conflicting Claims of Victory

LD1205173195 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taleban fighters and the administration of Kabul have both claimed that Farah and Ghowr Provinces have been seized from the opposite side. According to a report, General Azemi, a commander of [Herat governor] Ismail Khan, claimed yesterday that Farah Province has been completely cleared of the Taleban after several days of continuous fighting. The fighting is now continuing along the front lines in Helmand and Nimruz Provinces.

Azemi made the following claim: We have captured 100 of the Taleban fighters. One of the captured persons is Mowlawi Ubaydollah, governor of Farah Province. Seven Pakistanis who are residents of Baluchestan are also among the captured men. The corpses of 42 Taleban fighters are still lying on the battlefront.

According to another report, however, Taleban fighters have claimed that they have seized most places in Ghowr Province and that the fighting is now continuing in a region 12 km from Chaghcharan city, capital of Ghowr Province. The Taleban fighters did not say anything about the claim by the spokesman of Ismail Khan regarding Farah Province.

The Taleban fighters have also said that fighting has been continuing in Maydan Shahr for the last several days. As a result of the fighting in Maydan Shahr, 35 men from the Rabbani side and 5 men from the Taleban fighters were killed.

Taleban Denies Fall of Farah

LD1305153595 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman of the Taleban group has dismissed the claim that Farah Province has fallen to the forces of Ismail Khan.

In the course of his interview with BBC Radio last night, Mola Khairollah, a spokesman of the Taleban group, said the Taleban forces were in control of Farah Province and only the capital of this province was captured by the men of Ismail Khan. Regarding the arrest of Mowlawi Ubaydollah, governor of Farah Province, by Ismail Khan's men, he said: Claims made by General Azemi saying that Mowlawi Ubaydollah has been arrested are unfounded, because Mowlawi Ubaydollah was not the governor of Farah. Sayd Mowlawi Gheyasoddin is the governor of Farah and is still in his headquarters. Mola Khairollah added: The Russians used to launch their attacks on the eve of the Id and during the Id. The present administration of Kabul, on the instruction of their Russian masters, has been doing the same thing.

It must be mentioned that General Azemi, the spokesman of Ismail Khan, last night claimed that all areas in Farah Province was under the control of Ismail Khan's men.

According to another report, the warplanes of Turan [Captain] Ismail Khan yesterday evening bombarded some areas in Nimruz Province. No report has yet available of losses.

Regime's Forces Advance in Southwest

LD1205181195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The forces of the Islamic Army are continuing their advances in Nimruz Province. A source of the southwestern zone reported to the

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correspondent of BAKHTAR that after clearing Farah Province [of Taleban fighters], the Islamic Army's units are continuing their advances in the direction of Delaram and Zaranj, capital of Nimruz Province. The forces of the Islamic Army are now outside the city of Zaranj and continuing their advance.

During this operation 180 men from the Taleban group were captured and another 200 of them were killed.

According to reports, Nawzad district, Helmand Province, has been liberated and the Taleban group have fled from the Delaram area. In the course of this successful operation, a large number of light and heavy weapons as well as 20 Datsun motor-vehicles were seized by the Islamic Army from the Taleban group. The operation is continuing fiercely.

Army Successful; Taleban 'Fleeing'

LD1305174595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After capturing the strategic area of Chakab and seizing the districts of Kang, Jawand, and Char Borjak and bringing under their siege the city of Zaranj and district of Delaram, the Islamic Army has gained major successes in the southwestern zone. Dozens of pseudo-Taleban have so far been killed and 45 others were captured. The area of Delaram has been sieged by the units of the Islamic Army and Mojahedin.

According to reports received by BAKHTAR, the Mojahedin and forces of the Islamic Army, in the course of a successful operation carried out this morning, have cleared the area of Chakab and the districts of Kang, Jawand, and Char Borjak, Nimruz Province, of the pseudo-Taleban. The city of Zaranj, capital of Nimruz Province, is under the complete siege of the Islamic Army.

After the seizure of the above districts by the Islamic Army, the morale of the pseudo-Taleban group has collapsed and now they are fleeing their position in most areas.

In the course of another operation, the forces of the Islamic Army have driven back the pseudo-Taleban elements from the areas of Chakab and Tut. The units of the Islamic Army have surrounded the pseudo-Taleban elements in the area of Delaram.

In the course of today's operation, the airforce, artillery forces, and the infantry forces, with full coordination, have broken up the defensive lines of the pseudo-Taleban elements. In killing dozens of the militiamen, the forces of the Islamic Army captured 45 of the pseudo-Taleban men.

According to another report, in the course of yesterday's operation which resulted to the seizure of Nawzad District, Helmand Province, one armored vehicle, seven 76mm, 75mm, and 82mm artillery; seven rocket launchers, 150 light weapons, two truck loads of ammunition, 20 Toyota motor vehicles, and two Zil motor vehicles were seized and 45 pseudo-Taleban men were captured by the Mojahedin and forces of the Islamic Army.

Lal Mohammad, the so-called president of the Taleban court and Mola Abdol Haq, commander of the Taleban in this district, were captured.

'Severe Setback' for Taleban

LD1505100895 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, May. 15, IRNA — Afghan government and allied forces have captured western Nimruz Province after a massive attack launched on Afghan student militia, the government sources claimed Monday [15 May].

General Israr-ul Haq, a leader of Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] led by President Borhanoddin Rabbani told IRNA in Peshawar Monday that Zaranj, capital of Nimruz and all districts of Nimruz have fallen to the joint forces of government and General Ismail Khan, governor of western Herat Province.

He claimed that student militia known as Taleban had fled to western Helmand Province and joint forces were chasing them.

He said that joint forces launched attack on Sunday.

He could not tell about casualties but other Jam'iyat sources claimed that joint forces had captured about 200 Taleban soldiers.

Israr-ul-Haq also claimed that government had also flushed Taleban out of central Ghowr Province.

Recent defeats to student militia are severe set back to newly emerged force that came to prominence last November.

Taleban had recently lost Farah Province in south of Herat.

India

Reportage on Clashes in Kashmir, Reaction

Rao, Others Discuss Incident

BK1205164495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister today voiced the government's determination to go ahead

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with the normalization process in Jammu and Kashmir despite the Charar Sharif incident. He told leaders of all political parties in New Delhi today that the destruction of the shrine by foreign mercenaries and militants supported by India's neighbors will not deflect us from our objectives. It will only steel New Delhi's resolve to continue the process. He told the leaders that if we sustain a will in a determined manner the evil designs will be defeated. While the government is engaged in this process there could be temporary setbacks. He said he has been having consultations with political leaders for an agreed policy framework to the deal with the problem.

Mr. Rao said that the state administration and the security forces on the spot have been given full authority to deal with the situation as it developed. They took a certain approach but it did not succeed. But this should not be viewed as total failure of government's policy to deal with the overall situation in Jammu and Kashmir. He agreed with the opposition that there were several lessons to be learned from the Charar Sharif incident. The government has not only noted this but also taken follow-up measures. He said there is a need for some kind of master plan to develop the area around the shrine as well as for new houses.

The minister of state for internal security, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said the militants had no respect for the shrines and mosques in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the topography of the shrine and the houses around it was such it was difficult for the security forces to enter the area to prevent the militants' entry.

The leader of the opposition, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, told the meeting that the burning down of the shrine of a sufi saint is a matter of national grief. He said the restoration of the political process initiated by the government is an important step, but unless security is ensured and militancy put down the government will not succeed. Mr. Vajpayee said in his assessment it is a failure of the administration of Jammu and Kashmir and the center's policy.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] leader, Mr. Farooqi, said it was a total failure of intelligence. He said the overhauling of the state administration should receive top priority.

A statement circulated to the leaders by the government at the meeting said that the state government had some information last December that some foreign and local militants were frequenting the town of Charar Sharif. Subsequent information also revealed that some of these terrorists have entered the shrine concealing firearms and taken control of the place. Immediately on receiving the information, the state government was asked to chalk out a plan of action and take measures to deal with the mercenaries. As the shrine was a fragile wooden structure, it was decided not to storm the place to evict the mercenaries and the militants. While continuing the encirclement, offers of safe passage were repeatedly made to the militants which were rejected. The government said the militants set fire to residential houses in Baba Mohalla [and] Talab Kalan in the town on Monday [8 May] night to create terror and panic for thwarting the political process. Despite the militants firing, fire tenders reached the spot and brought the fire under control. At 0200 on Thursday, the militants set fire to a cluster of houses very close to the shrine. Soon after loud explosions were heard from the shrine which got completely gutted with half and hour. The statement said fire tenders were again rushed to the area but could not reach the spot because of militants' firing. Security forces moved in the town at 0600. The militants had scattered into different groups and holed in the houses still intact. The statement clearly pointed out that the security forces have shown tremendous patience and restraint in dealing with foreign mercenaries and militants who occupied the shrine. It categorically said it is only because of the concern for the safety of the shrine and [as heard] security forces did not resort to armed encounter.

The meeting called for stringent action against subversive activities. There was a consensus that under no circumstances terrorists should be allowed to get the upper hand. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, told the AIR correspondent S. Sudarshanam after the meeting that the leaders of all political parties were of the view that the Charar Sharif shrine incident should not be allowed to create a setback to the revival of the political process in Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the prime minister held a meeting with the Council of Ministers on Jammu and Kashmir and reviewed the situation in the valley. He announced assistance of 15 crore rupees to rebuild the houses and shops around the Charar Sharif in Kashmir which were destroyed by the militants. The details of the disbursement of the amount to the people who have suffered losses are being worked out. The Jammu and Kashmir government has also announced relief for the people whose houses and shops were burnt. It will be 50 percent of losses suffered subject to a maximum of 100,00 rupees.

The civil aviation and tourism minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, visited Charar Sharif town today to assess the situation. He told our correspondent that he will discuss with the state governor measures to tackle the situation. Mr. Azad also visited some places in Srinagar city and exchanged views with some prominent leaders.

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Meanwhile, the encounter between the militants and security forces in Charar Sharif town is continuing. The Army has taken adequate steps to ensure that the holed up militants do not escape. Twenty-three militants, including nine foreign mercenaries, have been killed. Our Srinagar correspondent, Bashir Malik, who visited the Charar Sharif town reports:

[Begin Malik recording] Explosions with fire was going on when I visited the town this afternoon. Houses in the vicinity of the holy shrine were still burning and smoke was billowing out. The holy shrine of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali was completely gutted and so were the Musafirkhana [guest house] and the Greene Mosque. There are only a few hundred houses on the outskirts of the town which escaped this devastating fire. The commander of the operations, Major General D.P. Shikatkar, told me that the Army which was stationed about 4 km outside the town moved in only after the foreign mercenaries set on fire many houses in and around the shrine. The security forces unearthed a factory which was used to manufacture improvised explosive devices and bombs; 23 such devices have so far been recovered and defused. [end recording]

Our correspondent adds that the major general said that Mast Gul, the so-called leader of the militants, has reportedly been injured but is hiding somewhere in the town. Local people caught a dreaded Afghan militant (Junaid Afghani) this morning and handed him over to the Army. (Afghani) is a self-styled commander of the banned militant outfit Harkatul Ansar. Talking to visiting journalists, the residents of town complained of the shortage of essential commodities and water. They demanded the setting up of relief camps.

In Srinagar, the corps commander, Lieutenant General J.S. Dhillon, told newsmen that not a single civilian was killed in the encounter. He commended the role of the Jammu and Kashmir police and the fire brigade personnel who tried their best to save the town but could not do so because of continuous firing by the militants.

Briefing newsmen in New Delhi on the event, a Defense Ministry spokesman described the situation as fluid. He said around 50 militants were holed up in the shrine of whom 23 have been killed. The situation in the curfew-bound areas of the Kashmir Valley remained by and large peaceful today.

Operation Continues; Snipers Reported

BK1305093795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kashmir Valley, the Army operation against the militants is continuing at Charar Sharif town. Some of the militants, who are still holed up in damaged houses, are indulging in sniper firings. An official spokesman said that in the encounter 25 militants and two Army personnel have been killed since Thursday [11 May] when the operation began. He maintained that no civilian casualty has taken place and the Army has been instructed that the local population should not be harmed. No major untoward incident has been reported, although as a precautionary measure the curfew is still in force in Srinagar city and some other towns. The day curfew in Kishtwar town of Doda District has been lifted in view of improvement in the situation. The relaxation in the curfew in Kupwara, which began at 0600 this morning, has been extended up to 1530, keeping in view the improvement in the situation. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, and the union civil aviation and tourism minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, are constantly reviewing the situation.

Border Security Intensifies

BK1305130995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir Valley, Army operation against the militants in the Charar Sharif town is continuing, while the situation in the rest of the valley remained by and large peaceful today. Curfew has been relaxed in Srinagar for three hours from 1700 this evening, while in Kupwara it was relaxed for nine hours from 0600 in the morning. An official spokesman said in the exchange of fire in Charar Sharif, 25 militants and two Army personnel have so far been killed. He maintained that there has been no civilian casualty and the Army has been instructed to ensure that no harm comes to the local population.

No major untoward incident was reported from the rest of the valley. However, there were a few incidents of stone pelting in Dal Gate and Saraiballa areas of Srinagar. The civil aviation minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, reviewed the law and order situation and the relief measures for the people of Charar Sharif at a meeting with senior officials in Srinagar. Mr. Azad, who has since returned to New Delhi, is likely to meet the prime minister this evening to brief Mr. Narasimha Rao about the situation in the valley.

The state governments have been asked to intensify surveillance on the borders. A high-level meeting held by the minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, in New Delhi today asked the states to gear up security measures in the wake of destruction of Charar Sharif shrine by militants and foreign mercenaries. The meeting reviewed the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in the country. The home secretary, Mr. Padmanabhaia, and other senior officials

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attended the meeting which deliberated on the coordinated action by state governments against antinational elements and ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] agents of Pakistan.

Reconstruction on 'Priority Basis'

BK1405130995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister said the Charar Sharif town will be reconstructed on a priority basis. Mr. S.B. Chavan, who visited Srinagar today as the head of a central team, told our Srinagar correspondent that while rebuilding the holy shrine, the center will act only as a catalyst. He said the architectural and other arrangements for the shrine will be worked out in consultation with religious leaders. The home minister said the operation to flush out the remaining militants from the town will be over by tomorrow evening; 29 militants have so far been killed.

In the morning, soon after its arrival in Srinagar, the team comprising Mr. Chavan; the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the cabinet secretary, Mr. Surinder Singh; and the home secretary, Mr. Padmanabhaia; held discussions with the governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, and senior officials. They also made an aerial survey of the Charar Sharif town. The team has since left for Delhi. Meanwhile, the situation in the valley remained by and large peaceful today.

The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has said the Charar Sharif incident should not be the cause for further deterioration of Indo-Pak relations. Talking to newsmen in Calcutta today, Mr. Mukherjee said India is always ready to discuss with Pakistan bilateral relations without any precondition.

Opposition Blames Government

BK1505095495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Opposition in both houses of Parliament today made a scathing attack on the government for the Charar Sharif incident, while the treasury benches squarely blaming Pakistan and its mercenaries for the tragedy. [sentence as heard] Demanding resignation of the government, the opposition leaders termed as total failure the handling of the situation. They alleged that no prompt action was taken to protect the shrine, though the frequenting of mercenaries to Charar Sharif town was known to the government in December itself. Both the houses suspended the question hour to take up the issue with Lok Sabha through an adjournment motion moved by Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and the Rajya Sabha under Rule-167. [passage omitted]

The Kashmir Valley itself, the situation, by and large, is peaceful, and no major incident has been reported from anywhere. The curfew is being relaxed for increased durations at different places. In Doda district of Jammu division, militants killed six persons at village Dori Bharat yesterday. Five of them belong to a single family. A police constable, who was on guard duty at a place of worship, in Doda town was killed when the militants threw a grenade at him.

A three-member delegation of the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] arrived in Jammu today for the assessment of the situation after the recent destruction of the Charar Sharif shrine.

Daily Urges Action Against Pakistan

BK1405133895 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 13 May 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Enough is enough"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Most Indians will agree with the view expressed by the Minister of State for Internal Security, Mr Rajesh Pilot, in a television interview on Thursday [11 May] that "enough is enough" as far as Pakistan's involvement in spreading terror and death in Kashmir is concerned. There comes a time in the history of every country when hard decisions have to be taken to make the point that the sanctity of its borders is inviolable. Charar Sharif is the latest in a series of incidents where foreign mercenaries, armed and funded by Islamabad, have used a part of Indian territory to carry on a low intensity war against the Indian State. It suits Pakistan to carry on this conflict because of the highly debilitating effect it has on the Indian polity, the economy and the security forces. While India bleeds from its wounds inflicted from across the border, Pakistan gets away almost unscathed from its war of attrition against this country. Reflecting the collective Indian will to end this patently untenable security equation in the sub-continent, the Indian Parliament adopted a resolution in February last year asserting that Kashmir is and will remain an integral part of India.

Mr Pilot's warning to Islamabad in the aftermath of the wanton destruction brought about by its agents in Charar Sharif is a logical corollary to this resolution, unanimously adopted by Parliament. This week's tragic events in Kashmir are a reminder to New Delhi that the time has perhaps come to follow up this resolution and make Pakistan realise that India's patience is exhausted. Charar Sharif is not a border town, where supplies from Pakistan can be slipped in with relative ease, but is

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situated in central Kashmir. The impunity with which mercenaries from the other side of the Line of Actual Control enter Jammu and Kashmir and wreak havoc calls for a fresh look at India's strategy of checking the influx of men and material from across the border. If Mr Pilot's warning is to be taken seriously by anyone at the Pakistani army general headquarters in Rawalpindi, India must follow it up with enough signals to show that it will no longer allow its territory to be used for subversion, but will resort to measures strong enough to deter any further acts of adventurism by Pakistan. Patience and accommodation have their virtues, but only when they are reciprocated. Charar Sharif is a reminder that peace has a price and that India must now think of paying that price if it is serious about restoring normalcy in Kashmir.

Iran

Va'ezi Views Sanctions, International Issues

LD1405132695 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — A senior Iranian Foreign Ministry official said on Sunday [14 May] that U.S. President Bill Clinton had suffered a humiliating setback in imposing trade sanctions on Iran and in persuading Russia to cancel its contract for sale of nuclear reactors to Iran.

"Western countries and other countries of the world want to expand cooperation with Iran," Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi said at a press conference.

Va'ezi added that Clinton had raised an unfounded claim that he had succeeded in convincing the Russians to cancel a contract for sale of equipment used for enriching uranium while no such a contract had ever existed between the two countries.

He noted that now it has become known to the world that Clinton's talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Iran had produced his desired results.

Iran is well aware of Russia's stance on the issue and its commitment to complete Bushehr nuclear plant designed for peaceful purposes, he said, predicting that Tehran-Moscow relations would further broaden in various areas in the future.

Va'ezi said the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had stressed in a message to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati the need for further upgrading of mutual and regional cooperation as well as Iran's role in settling regional disputes.

Referring to his recent visit to Russia, the Foreign Ministry official said the after conclusion of his talks, it was made clear that Russia was not willing to sacrifice its own interests for boosting of ties with the U.S.

Touching upon his talks in Russia on the Caspian Sea legal regime Va'ezi added that both Iran and Russia insisted that representatives of five countries bordering the Caspian Sea should meet to formulate a new legal regime for the world's largest inland sea before signing an oil contract.

On Tehran-Paris ties after recent developments in France, he said that taking into consideration the remarks of Jacques Chirac about Iran after his victory in presidential election and what Iranian President 'Akbar Hashemi—Rafsanjani said in his congratulatory message to Chirac, it was expected that the already friendly relations between the two countries would further promote. [sentence as heard]

Commenting on recent remarks made by a British Government spokesman on "important" negotiations now under way between Tehran and London, he said the two sides have so far held four rounds of negotiations to solve their problems.

Referring to the recent demands of the European Union from Iran concerning apostate author Salman Rushdie, he reiterated that Iran's stand in this respect was clear and that was the fatwa issued by the late imam could be neither revoked or changed by anybody.

The Iranian president, the Majles speaker and other senior authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran have time and again announced that the Tehran had never been, and will not been, after sending any body to kill Rushdie.

On his recent talks with Tajik officials to solve the crisis there he said three rounds of talks had been held so far between the Tajik Government and opposition and that another meeting was due to be held between the belligerent parties in the near future followed by the fourth round of talks in Afghanistan.

Majles Official on U.S.-Led 'World Arrogance'

LD1405103495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commanders and leaders of the Basij [paramilitary] mobilization from ministries, offices, and institutions gathered in a political meeting at Tehran's medical school this morning to study and analyze recent U.S. designs to impose economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At the meeting, Hasan Ruhani, Majles deputy speaker and the secretary of the Supreme Council for National

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Security, spoke about designs hatched by the world arrogance led by the United States.

He said that world arrogance always evaluates the Islamic Republic of Iran as an escalating threat against its political and economic interests and is now designing plots against Iran through various and usual methods.

The secretary of the national security council added that the United States has imposed economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran in its latest plot, which is supported by the Zionist regime, and has called on other governments to support this U.S. action. We witness, however, that other countries and Iran's economic partners have refused to support this U.S. decision and have even said that the decision is ill-considered.

Finally, the Majles deputy speaker thanked the Basij members for their active and alert presence in defending the Islamic revolution in various theaters.

Embassy Refutes U.S. Claims on Russian Deal

LD1305101495 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn, May 13, (IRNA. — Iran's embassy in Germany in a statement issued Saturday [13 May] described Washington's recent claim that Moscow has refused to deliver nulcear equipment used for military purposes to Tehran, as a face-saving move.

As Russian President Boris Yeltsin stressed in his recent press conference in Moscow, the delivery of heavy water reactors to Iran by Russia would not include any military components as agreed upon by the two countries, the statement said.

The German press recently printed reports alleging that the U.S. has managed to dissuade Russia from dispatching military nuclear equipment to Iran.

Since Clinton's hasty action in cancelling Tehran-Moscow nuclear deal has produced no results, Washington in a bid to regain its lost prestige claimed that Russia has agreed to drop military part of its nuclear deal with Tehran, the statement said.

It stressed that Terhan-Moscow nuclear cooperation merely covers peaceful use of atomic energy as well as cooperation for completion of Bushehr nuclear power station.

According to the deal Russia is to supply Iran with light-water reactors which cannot be used for production of nuclear weapons, the statment said.

Furthermore, the statement stressed that the deal is fully in line with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and is by no means in contradiction with the treaty.

Director general of the Vienna based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix has reapeatedly confirmed that Iran's nuclear program is of peaceful nature and that Tehran was never in quest of nuclear weapons.

The IAEA director general has also stressed that Iranian nuclear installations are also open to inspeciton by iaea teams.

Officials Remark on Russian Centrifuge Machinery

Energy Chief: Not Part of Deal

LD1405104495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have had an interview with Dr. Reza Amrollahi, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, in which our correspondent asked him about the characteristics of the centrifuge machinery and whether the machinery is a part of the agreement between Iran and Russia.

The head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said:

[Begin Amrollahi recording] The centrifuge is a method for enriching uranium. There are a number of methods being used in the world. The centrifuge is not a new method. There are more modern ways in the world, but many countries use this means to enrich their fuel. The centrifuge is a machinery for enriching fuel. It has never been a part of our agreement. It is not a part of our work. There is international propaganda. As you know, the Russians also said that the centrifuge is not a part of our work. [end recording]

Va'ezi Denies 'U.S. Propaganda'

LD1405120295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mahmud Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for European and U.S. affairs, in a news conference today announced: Russian authorities emphasize the continuation of their cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and seek to extend that cooperation in all fields.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, Va'ezi, who met and conferred with Russian officials in Moscow this week, pointed out: Russia seeks to create an atmosphere of mutual trust in its relations with Iran, and the independent decision of that country concerning

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the completion of the Bushehr nuclear power plant has further smoothed the ground for the expansion of ties in all fields and opened in a new chapter in the two countries' relations.

Concerning the U.S. propaganda clamor regarding Iran's intention to acquire a centrifuge used for enriching uranium, our country's deputy foreign minister said: The supply of such equipment is not part of our agreement with Russia. We have no need for it because we will be getting the fuel for the power plant according to international criteria.

U.S. Shows 'Unsparing Support' for Israeli Goals

LD1305152895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Finally after several days of suspension of the Security Council's meeting to investigate the Israeli plan for expropriation of northern lands of Beytolmoqaddas [Jerusalem] on 11 May, the meeting concluded its work. Following announcement of seizure of 53 hectares of northern lands of Beytolmoqaddas by the Zionist regime cabinet on 27 May the Arab Union [Arab League] members launched a vast effort appealing to the Security Council to investigate the case. The Council's meeting, however, came to a halt with the U.S. opposition and direct intervention. Even the U.S. permanent representative to the UN said openly that the Security Council is not a suitable venue for tabling Israeli-Palestinian differences.

Such an open stand in support of Israel by the American officials and the announcement that any resolution or statement against Israel will face the U.S. veto once again unmasked the U.S. policy of unsparing support for the Zionist regime's expansionist goals.

It is interesting to note that Tel Aviv officials have put forward the plan for seizing 53 hectares of northern lands of Beytolmoqaddas and construction of several thousands of residential units under conditions when the Gaza-Ariha [Jericho] stipulates the question of Beytolmoqaddas should be put to discussion between Palestinian and Israeli sides after three years from signing the agreement. Till then any form of expansion of townships and construction of new ones should also be halted. However, despite signature of Gaza-Ariha compromise, Tel Aviv has declared Beytolmoqaddas as Israel's capital. As put by the representative of the Zionist regime in the UN no one should expect the expansion of Beytolmoqaddas city to be halted.

It becomes clear that before the world public opinion why the ten Palestinian groups raised voice against 'Arafat's inking the obscure compromise of Gaza-Ariha as of the outset of the plan for compromise; a compromise which after the lapse of less than two years has taken such a form. With the U.S. implied support for seizure of the Palestinian lands the underlying aspects of peace presented by Washington-Tel Aviv axis is displayed. However, under conditions when the U.S. believes that the Palestinians' protest and the seizure of their lands is not worth being brought up in the Security Council and the Israeli officials also say that meeting of the Security Council will be of no help to settle the question it should be asked which international forum can the Palestinian people refer to.

Without doubt what the public opinion expects at this time is a serious and practical action by the Security Council to restore the Palestinian's denied rights; otherwise, issuance of any ceremonial statement or resolution will not help settle the problem. It will rather subject the oppressed Palestinian people to Israel's anti-human and expansionist policies.

Daily Views WWII Ceremonies, Bushehr Plant

NC1305105595 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 2 May 95 p 4

[Commentary by Dr. Mohammad Baqer Sadri: "The Bushehr Power Plant and the Road Toward National Development"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The talks between the foreign ministers of the United States and Russia as a prologue to the Clinton-Yeltsin summit in Moscow also included the Bushehr Power Plant. [passage omitted]

The young generation should know that the world today is marking the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II and that apart from holding bilateral talks in Moscow, the U.S. President also will be attending ceremonies marking this anniversary.

As far as these ceremonies are concerned, the important point is for us to know that despite the fact that by opening up its roads for the dispatch of supplies to the Caucasus front, Iran had received the title of the "bridge of victory" in the war, it was not invited to the ceremonies. Many believe that if Iran had not joined the allied forces, the fate of the war would have been different. [passage omitted]

Now, 17 years have passed since the victory of the revolution. Throughout this period, Iranian-U.S. relations have been in a state of confrontation and friction because of U.S. failure to truly accept our revolution. And without considering the tangible facts in the world today, it is now trying to deprive our country of its national development on the pretext of a nuclear power plant. In this midst, the heroic Iranian nation's services to mankind and namely the services it rendered during

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World War II are being completely ignored. Also, by trampling on the UN Charter and international laws, the heroic Iranian nation is being placed under increasing pressure. [passage omitted]

Our president's statement on the United States was strong and well- documented. This statement spoke of the determination of a nation to live independently and freely. It reminded us of statements and speeches by leaders of the national movement during the struggle for oil nationalization. The Iranian nation and especially the youths should always recall the oil nationalization struggles and not allow economic hardships to affect the nation's determination. [passage omitted]

The esteemed president's visit to India, the warm welcome he received, and the historic talks that he held were all a type of warning to the West and Russia that the great country of Iran and its heroic nation can establish strong economic and political ties with countries like India and China and that they can create an organization that extends from the Persian Gulf to the Indian Ocean and to the Pacific, an organization that will include more than 2 billion people and will make itself heard on the international scene. Also, Russia should heed that if it refrains from carrying out its commitments in the Bushehr agreement, it will be accepting the chains of U.S. slavery and will thus lose its strong European and Asian base.

The Bushehr Power Plant is reviving the memory of the heroic Iranian nation's struggles against colonialism. It is reviving the memory of our national struggles throughout history, especially throughout the past 100 years. It is upsetting most of the diplomatic criteria and bringing to light the West's miscalculations. The United States should refrain from repeating a mistake in our blessed land. Also, the country's economic officials should abandon temporary policies once and for all and consult competent people to compile lasting and strong financial and monetary policies, which will help prevent price rises.

Three-Day Naval Maneuver Begins in Persian Gulf

LD1305174895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] To maintain the combat readiness of the soldiers of Islam, the large scale Nasr-3 [Victory-3] naval maneuver began today in the general region of the northern Persian Gulf. According to the Central News Unit from Ahvaz, this maneuver will continue for three days and is taking place with the participation of units from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' Imam Husayn third naval district in Mahshahr, using combat vessels, gunboats and engineering units.

Maneuvers End, Called 'Total Success'

LD1505132295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The third and final stage of the Nasr-3 [Victory-3] maneuver was successfully held in blue waters of the Persian Gulf.

In that stage of the maneuver, which began in the early hours of the day, units from the third offshore zone of Imam Husayn's Guards Corp, including the selfless warship combatants of the Zolfaqar brigade, the marine brigade, vessels of the Qader brigade, and other vessels attacked the positions of an imaginary enemy.

First, the amphibious force strengthened their position and repulsed the enemy's chemical attack. The imaginary enemy, having suffered heavy casualties in the past few days, regrouped its remaining force to launch a counter-attack but our forces engaged their ships and their aggressive airplanes, bombarded the shore from the sea, closely defended shore line and thus repulsed their counter-attack.

The three-day Nasr-3 maneuver in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf achieved its predetermined objectives today and was a total success.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Economic, Political Issues

LD0905134395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1716 GMT 8 May 95

["First part" of interview with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by ETTELA'AT editor Mahmud Do'ai; JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI editor Masih Mohajeri; KEYHAN editor Hoseyn Shari'atmadari; Fereydun Verdinejad, managing director of IRAN and chief of IRNA; and Gholam-Hoseyn Karbaschi, editor of HAMSHAHRI and mayor of Tehran; correspondents cannot be distinguished during initial part of interview; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thank you very much for giving us this opportunity, at this time, which in a way belongs to the press, to speak to you in the presence of a number of people in charge of the country's press. If I may, I would like to ask the first question. As your eminence knows, a press exhibition was held last week. In view of the fact that your eminence is one of our prominent cultural and political personalities, would you be so kind as to tell us whether you think that the expectation which exists with regard

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to the press — that it should serve as a bridge linking officials and the people — has been fulfilled and what is your general assessment of the press at the present moment?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In all fairness, of course, our press has played a major role from the onset of the revolution until now. My overall assessment is that I am satisfied with the press and I see their services as being very important.

They also have certain weak points, as do all sectors. I believe that one of the things we should do with regard to the press is to define their mission clearly. This is something in which you yourselves must be involved and lend your assistance so that this mission is clear and defined.

The weak point which I see in our press — and I have mentioned this repeatedly — of course, they are probably still better than the press in comparable countries, but, in view of the greatness of the revolution, our press — especially because the people in charge of our press are, in general, among the prominent personalities of the revolution — I expect the material in our press to have greater depth: In-depth and all encompassing analyses, far-sightedness, avoidance of sloganeering and demagoguery.

Of course, it is in the nature of the press that it should pay attention to public opinion and certain issues must definitely be given a place in order to maintain appearances, but the bulk of the work must be devoted to educating the people, raising their mental level and filling the gaps which may exist because of ignorance and lack of information. I do not see enough of this in the press; although they have so many good points that they make up for these weaknesses.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that the press has a responsibility as a collective supervisor or observer of public affairs and do you think this task has been performed well? Are you satisfied in this regard?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I think they do this more than adequately in relation to more superficial matters, but, in terms of more in- depth issues, I think that they do not perform their mission well. Observation does not cover all of this. There are more in-depth issues in connection to which — if officials are negligent or if the revolution has not addressed them — of course, they understand the basic interests of society; we cannot say that they do not understand — they must discuss these issues openly and bravely.

[Correspondent] I, too, would like to express my gratitude for your kindness in giving us this opportunity. If I may, I would like to speak somewhat frankly about certain things.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Please feel free to be frank. This meeting is of such a nature that issues are raised frankly. You do not need to have any worries on my part.

[Correspondent] We have always had the honor of being able to speak frankly in your presence about all issues and to receive answers from you with benevolence and kindness. My question concerns economic matters — if I may. During the first plan, the country's infrastructural facilities and production in the primary industries, such as metals and petrochemicals, showed a high rate of growth according to plan. The plan was successful from this point of view. However, the effect of these successes is not felt clearly by the people in their daily lives.

For example, in the housing sector, despite the inauguration of cement plants, production being raised to the level of self- sufficiency, and the availability of construction material inside [the country], the cost of housing is still more or less at the top of the list of the inflation rate. And, at the end of the day, one of the indicators about the quality of economic management is the rate of inflation.

Unfortunately, whereas it was foreseen in the plan that inflation would reach 8.9 percent in 1372 [1993-94], in actual fact, inflation exceeded 30 percent in the years 1372 and 1373. In your opinion, what was the shortcoming in the plan or in its implementation which led to this [inflationary] performance, alongside the good achievements of the first plan, and what policies do you have in mind for controlling this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The issues which you mentioned were not one single question. They contained a number of questions which I will touch on now and, if there are any ambiguities in what I say, the gentlemen can, naturally, ask for further explanations later in the discussion.

Regarding the point you referred to when you said there was good progress under the plan in terms of reconstruction, especially in the sphere of infrastructure: Well, I have no quarrel with that; this is what I have always said myself.

As to the question about whether this has had any noticeable effect on the lives of the people: It has had a very considerable effect. Go and look for yourself in distant towns, in villages. You will see people who now have water, electricity, roads, medical treatment. It was never like this in rural areas at any time in the history of Iran. Or, if you do not wish to go that far, look at Tehran itself. Think of it five years ago and look at it

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now. Look at what has been done in terms of improving the structure of the city and the things that are clearly visible.

At the beginning of the plan, we used to have five, six hours of power cuts [per day]. Can you see any power cuts anywhere now? Even though we have provided electricity for the entire country. At the beginning of the plan, when eight ships arrived at the same time in a port, we would have many problems. Now, the country's transport is fluid. Our farmers have seen major changes in their lives. You will be able to see for yourself if you go and talk to farmers. They have really become hopeful about the future of their lives.

So, if you are saying that there has been no effect, we do not accept this. There has been a tremendous effect in people's daily lives; even in terms of consumption.

As to your specific point about housing: That is a separate matter. You said that it topped the list in terms of inflation. This is not the case. Inflation has generally been lower in housing than in other sectors. If inflation was high, it would attract investment. One of our problems at the moment is that the housing sector is not attracting enough private investment.

[Correspondent] Why do you think this has come about?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is in the plan. That is, it was discussed by the government, and we said that we should try to channel some of the uninvested capital into the housing and construction sector. For example, the point you made about cement: You will, God willing, see the effects of this in the future. Of course, we have not seen all the effects of the first plan in terms of consumption.

Let me just say a few words about this issue of cement. It may be interesting for you and it may affect your subsequent questions. We are constructing 21 cement plants according to the first plan; two of which have come on stream so far. During the next two or three years, 12 or 13 of them will have come on stream. I believe that this will take our current production level of 18 million tonnes to 30 million tonnes. Of course, cement is only part of the construction sector; there are many other things involved. Of course, we have provided all those other things as well.

As to your point that inflation was supposed to be eight percent but actually exceeded 30 percent: This is true. This is what happened. However, the main reason may lie in the change in the foreign exchange rate [move toward a single exchange rate]. We had not foreseen the change in the exchange rate in the plan in the way that it actually came about. We had not planned to extend our policy of adjustment to the foreign exchange sector. But we saw that it was not possible to carry on in the old way. I will say more about this if it comes up again in our discussion.

Fortunately, this very important task [move to a single exchange rate] was achieved to some extent. This has important infrastructural effects. It had an effect on inflation. Of course, there are other issues involved: The psychological war being launched against us, foreign pressures on us. Again, we did not envisage this when we were drawing up the first plan. This has had some effects.

[Correspondent] Excuse me Mr. President, in fact, I think part of the question is on those targets that have been discussed in the [social-economic] development plan aimed at infrastructural investments. Do you think all these targets that are aimed at people's welfare can be achieved? [passage omitted]

Do you think it is possible that issues related to people's welfare and prosperity can be achieved soon with the implementation of one development plan? Or do we need at least two or three more development plans to reach those targets with this population growth?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I have announced several times that we need at least a decade for the reconstruction of the country in view of the destruction caused by the war and infrastructural backwardness, and we have passed through five years of it. I have said in reply to his question too that the signs of successes of the [development] plan will appear gradually in future years in term of consumption. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Now that the discussion is on the subject of development and the development plan, naturally it has a very close link with the issue of social justice. The issue of social justice is one of your excellency's well-known discussion points in the Friday prayer sermons. [passage omitted]

There is a view that the development plan — or development in general — and social justice are not very compatible. Some people believe that one of these should be sacrificed for the sake of the other. [passage omitted]

Could you please give us more detail and at the same time [your reply] could serve as an answer to that theory?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes. I fully reject the theory that you referred to — that is some people say that development and social justice contradicts each other. On contrary if there is a lack of development, there is no possibility of justice. They complement each other. [passage omitted]

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[Correspondent] As Mr. Karbaschi referred to how many development plans are needed, could you tell us how many development plans are needed to achieve these targets. In your opinion how much time approximately is needed?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As I calculated, if nothing happens, God willing, nothing will happen. We will achieve our main targets that are raised in your question with the implementation of the second plan. I might explain later how we can achieve these targets.

[Correspondent] As you know, thus far as we have not solved the problems of notes in circulation being too high for goods' supply — which unfortunately exists — the problem of inflation and the deprived classes wil not be solved easily. Last year, apparently inspite of the fact that the Majles approved 700 billion tumans in the budget, we had about 1,100 billion tumans notes in circulation. Also, apparently, since 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994] we have had an increase in notes in circulation from 6,000 billion rials to 60,000 billion rials. For this to be solved, first we have to have investment by the banks especially in the industry, where there is the problem of unemployment and so forth. Unfortunately, last year we did not have sufficient cooperation in terms of investment from the banks in the industry. Apparently we had 10 percent less investment than forecast, as it were. This also exacerbates the problem of inflation and unemployment.

How do you think we could control notes in circulation in the second plan, and how will the government's debts to the Central Bank, which is the root cause of money printing and the increase in notes in circulation, be resolved? Will there be a halt in it? At least, by how much will it be reduced in the second plan?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Notes in circulation, is one of most important economic issues here at present; and it is really complicated. There is no clear view on it, at least at government level. As you have seen, when it is discussed there, some are complaining about shortage of notes in circulation. For example, the industry is complaining that since there are insufficient notes in circulation some factories cannot reach production quickly enough or obtain materials.

Of course, we think there are too many notes in circulation. I agree with the view that the amount of notes in circulation is more than necessary. However, it is not in the hands of banks and so forth, it is in the hands of certain dishonest people.

[Correspondent] Is it middlemen, and such, that is the non- manufacturing sector?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] That is right. There is a some amount disruptive notes in circulation there [as heard]. However, as to what we have done. First, if you remember, when we started the program the budget had a 51 percent deficit the previous year. That increased notes in circulation. That is, we obtained 51 percent of the budget from the Central Bank and spent it. That was dangerous. For some time now, we have not had a budget deficit. The notes in circulation are increasing because of other factors. It has two or three causes, particularly this year that it went up from 7,000 billion to 11,000 billion, as you gave as an example, clearly it was mostly due to the exchange rate. We changed the exchange rate from seven tumans to 175 tumans [per dollar]. [passage omitted]

For two or three years now, we have been reducing notes in circulation every year. [passage omitted] We are pursuing a deflationary policy. That is why many manufacturers have started complaining. Although we are following a deflationary policy, I agree that notes in circulation are still too high. Gradually, of course, when the products of the new factories come on the market they will absorb the notes in circulation.

[Correspondent] Mr. Hashemi, I thank you in advance for giving us the time. Now that we are talking about the economy, I would like to ask you a question about it. As far as I remember, the term economic saboteur was first used by your excellency. Since your excellency is one of the most outstanding ideologues of the regime and also hold the highest executive position, my first question is how do you define economic Sabotage? And what punishment do you deem fit for economic saboteurs? Do you think they deserve heavy punishment such as execution? And if the answer is yes, my next point is that, is not dealing with economic saboteurs one of the clearest aspects of establishing financial and economic order?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] When I used that expression, my opinion was that they were like other terrorists who disrupt the security of the society, but in terms of the economy. The ones who do things with respect to people's lives and the security of society, and these people, who deliberately take action to sabotage the order of the society, play exactly the same role, and its effect is not less. The fact of whether they deserve to be executed has been mentioned in the law. The resolutions passed by the Assembly for discerning expediency of the system have allowed that they should, in some cases, be executed. Of course, as far as I remember, we have not resorted to this instrument yet and have not reached such a stage.

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[Shari'atmadari, interrupting] As far as we too remember, such an incident has not occurred.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes. Such an action has not been taken, but, in reality they deserve this punishment. During the first few years and in the period of the implementation of the first development plan, we were mainly pursuing the fact that we should open up the market, following the extreme centralization that we had in the past, that had restricted the activities of the economic elements to a certain extent. We have carried out that task which has shown its effect to a great extent. Of course these types of action are not free from negative effects as well, but their positive effects outweigh this.

Now that we have organized the market control program and have received a resolution from Assembly for discerning expediency of the system, which will soon be announced concerning smuggling and violations of foreign exchanges, I think we might come across such cases that need punishment, if the situation continues. I hope such cases do not arise that the courts should have to decide whether these people deserve to be executed. However, this option is open. I think we should take some extra disciplinarian measures in some cases. [passage omitted]

[Verdinezad] Regarding the issue of investment, just as your excellency is aware, in drawing up national accounts, around 12.5 percent of national production is allocated to depreciation. So, more than this amount has to be invested annually in the economic sector in order to increase the country's potential. Could you please tell us about the level of investment in our country during the first and second plans, and in what way does this indicate that our national production has increased?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This question of yours contradicts some of the issues raised earlier, but I shall try to answer it. Firstly, you mentioned that depreciation is calculated at a rate of 12.5 percent. This is not correct; we do not have such an indicator since depreciation is much less than this. You see, the usual practice, in the industrial field, is to allocate 10 years for depreciation of investment when a factory or plant is built. They remove 10 percent annually from savings until they are in a position to make up for it. But this is not the practice in all the sectors. For instance, depreciation is very low in the agricultural sector, on the contrary there are increases here because land can be improved and so forth, just like what goes on in many of other sectors. Many factories go on working for 30 or 40 years so the depreciation rate is not always the same. Your question is essentially related to the level of investment.

[Verdinezad] Yes, and also to depreciation.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I said that 12.5 percent was not the correct figure for depreciation, it is less than this - that is, as far as I am aware - since this is the first time I am hearing this figure from you. Fortunately, investment rose during the first [five year] plan and we were proud that this was one of the outcomes of the first plan. Your questions were concerned with investment and the point that these large amounts of investment had raised the supply of money in society and had therefore placed consumers under pressure and increased demand. As far as I remember right now, regarding investment, we started at 12 percent and last year [Iranian year ending 20 March 1995] we reached 17 percent — that is, we also experienced annual growth. These were calculated, moreover, on the basis of lower dollar prices. If you accept that most of our investments were based on foreign exchange; we spent 60 to 70 billion dollars in foreign exchange on our investments, so if you were to calculate the dollar on the basis of its real price today, you will see that the rate of growth of investment is very high. For instance, we invested 4 billion dollars in addition to the sum invested in rials, in a plant such as the Mobarakeh Steel plant, you see what a huge investment that is and wherever you go, throughout the country, you will notice that there is plenty of money and foreign currency in all the sectors, especially in dams, power plants, roads, railways, cities, agricultural enterprises. We are satisfied with our investment and if there is any criticism — and we are more or less seeing that there is — it is that they tell us we are going too fast. I do not accept that it is fast; I believe it is needed.

[Verdinezad] Perhaps the question is one of providing more protection to consumers, and if we look at recent programs this seems to be forthcoming. As a whole, I think that the first plan gave priority to production, whereas the second plan seems to be giving more protection to consumers. Is this so?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] If you look at past indicators, you will see that this was not necessarily the case, even in the first plan. Look, in 1372, the indicator for income and expenditure showed that people's income had risen on average by 33 percent whereas expenditure had grown by 24 percent. This difference means that people's standard of living has improved. Now, either people are investing this money, or building houses, or they have spent it. I do not at all accept that today people are spending less than five years ago because of a growth in investment. All classes, I believe, are consuming more and the reason for this is our own consumption — because we keep account of the commodities we spend on; electricity, water, fuel, vegetable oil, sugar — a perceptive look at what is happening in the country

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makes it very clear to us that the society is consuming relatively more than five years ago, relatively, that is.

[Do'ai] Talking about the people, just as you are aware, one of the [word indistinct] contributing to the success of governments everywhere in the world is their attention to the demands and opinions of the people. In many countries, apart from the parliamentary system, scientific methods are constantly used to obtain and assess public opinion and decision-makers benefit from this. How do you keep in touch with public opinion and integrate it into your decision-making? Has a mechanism been devised for this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Do you think that in Iran, now, people's demands are hidden from anyone? We have an open system and anyone can say anything...

[Do'ai, interrupting] I mean a mechanism which is institutionalized.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, we do have specific methods. Firstly, we do have an organization for opinion polls in the presidency department and they are constantly collecting opinion about different topics, on any subject that we ask for. And they are scientific in their approach. Others also pass us their poll results. The Voice and Vision has an opinion poll and others are conducted elsewhere. Usually, whoever does a survey these days also lets us have the results. Another means is through our known telephone numbers. Many people know these numbers which we make public every now and then. The presidency department talks to people a lot on a 24-hour basis and then they inform us. We record these phone calls — especially those that contain new subjects — and then we discuss them. We are also informed through the media, through the newspapers, Majles deputies, the ministers who usually meet the public, the Friday prayer leaders — those who are a link between officials and the people — the clergy. We gather everything that is being said at a public level and which is worthy of note. Of course, some people think that there should be a positive or helpful reply to anything being said. Well, we reply to those that we can or should.

I believe that the officials in Iran are informed about public opinion and people's demands.

[Do'ai] I remember that during the war, you used to sometimes turn up anonymously, just like a basiji, among the combatants and seek their views. Evidently this cannot be done now. You have other eyes and elements to perform this duty now.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] One of the things we do have now is a large number of agents in public offices who pass a lot of information to us. They are not known to people normally. They pass us information about what happens or what people's problems are. If you ever see the files on this, I'm sure you'll find them to be very interesting, as I do.

[Do'ai] Through your agents in the public offices, or the telephone calls and other means, you have also been probably informed about some of the problems of civil servants. Although the cost of living and prices are the same for clerks and directors, their incomes are different. There are cases of discrimination in some of the decisions made by the government, such as the New Year bonus which was given this year. The employees asked for more than the 10,000 tomans which they had been receiving as bonus for the past few years. It was increased, that is, the demand was met, but to the detriment of the employees. Rather, it benefitted the directors. This was because they were given the equivalent of their monthly salaries. Well, some people received over 50,000 tomans but the clerks, those very same people who had made the original demand, did not really gain very much. They just received a little over the sum they have been receiving up to now. There are more instances of this kind of thing. [passage omitted]

I am mentioning this because it relates to the issue of social justice and, at the same time, you mentioned that there are people who bring you information about what is going on in the public offices. I presume they have also informed you about these complaints and would like to hear your views.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani, laughing] Well even if they had not informed me, you yourselves would be writing it all the time, so I'd be reading it in the papers! As you are aware, the government's general policy during has to now always been and will remain to be one that seeks to pay attention to the poorer strata. If you look at manual workers' wages, you would see that they are higher than those of white-collar workers.

[Do'ai] Yes, manual workers get more than white-collar workers.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You'll see that what the law says about New Year bonuses is that employees should receive the equivalent of one month's extra pay. In the past, we used to give this to the lower strata and deprive the directors from this right. For years, directors did not benefit from this right.

[Do'ai] Well, you were adhering to justice.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course it is important as an issue to consider how justice applies to someone who has studied and gained expertise for 15 years or so and who is able to then adjust his modest income to the cost of living. These salaries, [pauses] nowhere in

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the world does this happen. Even the Communists who did this suffered the consequences. For instance, we think that a simple wage-earner who has a diploma ought to receive the same salary that a senior specialist who could be serving the system in a worthy manner, receives. I do not think this happens anywhere. So they said we should pay them directors an extra month's salary because the New Year was coming and they had extra expenses. And we had not been paying them. It had been envisioned that we pay two months' salary to workers. You cannot say there is injustice when this is what had been envisioned and which is more than what directors get. [passage omitted]

Anyway, our policy remains one of continuing to strengthen the salary of white-collar workers. This year, we increased these by 20 percent. Before this, at the time when we gave tax deduction, it only applied to the lower-income strata, the higher strata had to all pay tax. We have opened discussion once again on the possibility of raising tax deduction levels for the lower income group. In any case, the policy of attending to those in need is still a priority. [passage omitted]

What I want to say again is that there is a vast difference still between the bonus we gave our directors and the amount which directors in the private sector get. Just as his eminence the leader said about too much consumerism, we should really be careful not to be pulled in that direction. Thank God, as far as I know, our humble directors have a long way to go before they can hope to get there [Hashemi-Rafsanjani laughs]. We have a fund at the presidency department from which they borrow for their daily expenses. Usually when it gets to the end of the month there isn't anything left by way of salaries — not even for our ministers! By the time we reduce their installments, we find that these poor guys do not have much left. [passage omitted]

[Mojaheri] Excuse me, Mr. Hashemi, I would like to ask you another question about the same subject. There is no doubt that the top officials of the regime are truly sincere and dedicated. It would be unfair to say otherwise. However, we have witnessed instances of complaints against some lower-rank officials. The complaint might be about clear cases of misconduct, or about the failure of an official to perform his task properly. My question is this: Why are such individuals rarely punished? Forgive me for being blunt, I take the liberty of asking the next question because you particularly instructed us to be outspoken. We have seen that some individuals who were dismissed for incompetence, were redeployed in another place and given another key position. Do you not think this is some sort of compromise, standing on ceremony or cautious approach by the country's executive system?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Definitely not. The country's executive authorities truly pursue the policy of punishing offenders and dismissing those who abuse their positions. There will be no hesitation and we would not allow ourselves to hesitate either. There might be instances of having to tolerate something due to particular political or social considerations. There are always exceptions, but our policy is based on what I mentioned earlier.

When an official is replaced, some outsiders might think he has been dismissed for breaching certain rules, for the sake of expediency or because he was incompetent; well we cannot be expected to divulge everything. There is no need to raise every issue in our society. I assure you that, as far as I know, no one is left to perform a task, if he is found to be incompetent. On the other hand we might replace some one for certain reasons. Replacing an official does not always mean he was incompetent. There are other reasons for moving a person from one job to another. We do not allow ourselves to be unfair. For instance it might become impossible for an official to work in a place due to certain political considerations or because his colleagues gang up against him. They might wish to see him dismissed to find another job for himself. We will not allow such instances of tyranny against individuals. We have records of the services of such individuals. We would, therefore, find him another suitable job. Experts are not found easily to be dismissed just because others find it hard to work with him. Even if we had a countless number of such experts, we would not allow ourselves to be unfair to them. [passage omitted]

[Verdinezad] Mr. President, you mentioned earlier that your eyes and ears are watching the performance of the executive managers in various state departments and they report back to you. Have you set up such a supervisory branch recently? At the present, there are some serious complaints mainly about bureaucracy and the fact that state employees refuse to perform their task. In some state departments the peoples' requests are not answered without demanding illegal payments and bribes. Have the members of your supervisory branch reported such instances of public complaints? And if so, could you please let us know what punishment followed, as punishment would be a warning to others?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I began this task almost as soon as I was elected to this post. The work has extended too. What you mentioned about demanding bribes without performing a task, is classed as gross misconduct in the administrative system. If we were to come across such instances of gross misconduct, we would not forgive the offenders. At this point, I would like to call upon the people to report the real cases of misconduct. The

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reason I mention the word "real" is that sometimes the people have unreasonable expectations from state employees. A man might go to a state department to ask that his request is dealt with immediately. He may not be aware of the law which restricts speedy completion of his request. He might then conclude that the state department is particularly negligent and would not respond to his demands without accepting a bribe. I am not saying there are no instances of abuse. Yes of course there are. We receive many reports daily that people's requests are ignored or there has been instances of corruption. We have confronted and punished the offenders. Every complaint will be investigated. But we have not publicized our policy. We might do so in the future. Of course, if we deem it necessary, we would expose the offenders.

[Verdinezad] Would it be possible to expose the offenders within the boundaries of their own department?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, this has been done before. We have fired individuals found guilty of misconduct. Some are demoted and found lower-rank jobs in another department, or are fined. I wish you could see how many such instances have been dealt with. But tell me, do you expose your colleagues who might be found guilty of misconduct? No doubt you sack or punish the guilty individuals.

[Verdinezad] Well Mr. President, we in the mass media are duty- bound to inform the people on their rights and how to respect the rights of others. Of course our job is to teach the people, while informing them of their rights..

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani, interrupting] Anyway, I would like to ask you to prevent promotion of the idea that the regime is negligent or is not investigating instances of abuse. I would not mind if what is said is true. However, it is not fair to make the people lose their trust in the government. Such judgements are not fair, particularly when they are combined with slogans and exaggerations.

*Food Price Increase Blamed on Rise of Fuel Cost

95LA0188C Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Mar 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] In the first week of the new year, the prices of general food items such as red meat, chicken, vegetable shortening, eggs, butter, cheese, and other items increased more than any other goods. The merchant selling at high prices, who is always looking for a way to make inflated profits, attributes these high prices to the 100 percent increase in the prices of fuel, especially gasoline.

The people are saying that these high prices which are now being imposed on society are not really high prices. They are mostly economic abuses. Hoseyn Purmand said in this regard: The public's power to purchase general food items is already at a minimum or the prices of chicken, eggs, red meat, and other things would be even higher.

Zahra Majidi, a female homeowner with three children and a monthly income of only 20,000 tumans, said: People on fixed incomes really cannot live with the recent runaway prices, especially with regard to general food items and transportation costs. She added: Do officials know about these limitless high prices? Don't they realize how much merchants are overcharging the public? If they know about it, why don't they put a stop to it? Why has the fight against selling at high prices been put aside? Do they think selling at high prices does not exist?

Prices of General Food Items

On the general food market the price of red meat was 800 tumans per kilogram [kg], chicken was 500 tumans per kg, eggs were 330 tumans per carton, cheese was 800 tumans per kg, and butter was not to be found at all. Fruit and sweets were selling at unregulated prices, and don't even ask about dried nuts and seeds.

Yet the price of chicken in Mowlavi Square is between 400 and 420 tumans per kg. Shops in the center and south of the city were selling chicken for about 450 tumans per kg.

A stationery dealer in Tehranpars, whose prices increased 50 percent during the last week, discussed the reason the goods in his shop became expensive. He said: Just this morning I paid 40 tumans for a 20-tuman fare. I am therefore obliged to raise the prices of the stationery in my shop. I am watching to see what will happen to keep from falling behind.

Bahram Sama'i, who had just bought several cans of tuna from a fisheries outlet shop, discussed the high prices of general food items. He said: The minister of oil and other insiders claim that the increased prices for gasoline will not have that much effect on other goods, yet the existing situation contradicts their claim. The National Fisheries Organization, which is a government organization, has increased the price of a can of tuna by 50 tumans in just one week, and one of the reasons for that is the increased cost of transportation. When a government organization increases the prices this quickly on its goods, what is to be expected of merchants and other people who are always thinking about filling their pockets?

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'Ali 'Ezzati, a worker who had come to Dr. Shari'ati Street to buy an electrical appliance and gasoline, discussed the recent high prices. He said: Currently there is no rhyme or reason in the prices of goods. Everyone does what he wants to do. If only prices were stable, then this would be tolerable. It must be said that the government and the officials are not putting any controls on the existing goods in society, and the merchants are running wild.

He added: They were selling this rice cooker on Shari'ati street for 12,500 tumans. Just this morning I bought one in the Narmak area for 7,000 tumans.

Look at the difference. This price instability has really made the people feel helpless, and no authority has control over it.

This gentleman's wife, who works in a government office, continued where her husband left off: Early in the month of Esfand [20 February-19 March] I bought a black Chinese tatrun [not further identified] at the Tehran bazaar for 400 tumans per meter. Just two weeks later my office cooperative company offered the same tatrun at 3 meters for 200 tumans, or 67 tumans per meter.

Pakistan

Editorial Hails U.S. Decision on 'Terrorist' List

BK1305114295 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 13 May 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Pakistan Cannot Be Declared a Terrorist State"]

[FBIS Translted Text] Wendy Ruth Sherman, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs, has said the U.S. State Department cannot accept the Indian lobby's request that Pakistan's name should also be included in the list of terrorist states. On behalf of the Indian lobby, U.S. Congressman Eliot L. Engel is forwarding a letter to the U.S. State Department requesting that, in the wake of the murder of two U.S. Consulate officials in Karachi, it declare Pakistan a country that is sponsoring international terrorism. India has submitted similar requests to the U.S. Congress, but has failed to receive their support. The U.S. Administration's decision is encouraging for Pakistan. It proves that Islamabad has never supported terrorism in any form.

Daily Views U.S. Envoy Visit Concerning Kashmir

BK1505130695 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 13 May 95 p 10

[Editorial: "The Meeting of U.S. Ambassador to India With Benazir: Nation Should Be Briefed on This"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Frank Wisner, the U.S. ambassador to India, met with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad on Tuesday [9 May]. He unexpectedly arrived in Islamabad from New Delhi on Monday. The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, too, was mysteriously quiet on Wisner's visit to Islamabad. The U.S. ambassador held a detailed meeting with the prime minister, during which no third person was present. However, the prime minister did hold consultations with Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and the foreign secretary before the meeting.

According to the Pakistani official sources, the two sides discussed the Kashmir situation during the meeting. The prime minister told the U.S. ambassador that Pakistan is always ready for talks with India on Kashmir, but these discussions should be held in light of the relevant UN resolutions. About the proposed elections in occupied Kashmir, the prime minister told the U.S. envoy that as long as over 600,000 Indian troops are present and special law concerning "terrorism" is in force in the occupied territory, the proposed elections will be nothing but a farce.

This has now become crystal clear that the United States is striving through its "quiet diplomacy" to help organize a dialogue between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir dispute and to find a solution of the problem that is "acceptable" to New Delhi. During his recent visit to New Delhi, Pakistan President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari reiterated that the Kashmir dispute can be resolved only through a plebiscite, but India does not accept it and maintains that by participating in various elections, the people of occupied Kashmir have already given their assent to the accession of Kashmir to India. New Delhi is again trying to stage a farce of elections in occupied Kashmir, which is being opposed by Pakistan. It seems President Clinton is trying to help find a settlement of the Kashmir dispute in a manner that will not necessitate a plebiscite in the occupied territory or which will make Pakistan ease its opposition to the proposed elections in the occupied territory.

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The international media have also given wide coverage and importance to the U.S. ambassador's visit to Pakistan. In fact, lately, the United States has been working toward achieving two objectives in South Asia — to have nuclear programs of India and Pakistan rolled back and to find a settlement of the Kashmir dispute through "means" other than the plebiscite. Viewed in the context of Pakistan's interests, the U.S. role so far has been in India's favor. In spite of repeated assurances by Pakistan that it will not make nuclear weapons, the United States has imposed military and economic restrictions against it under a so-called amendment and has refused to supply the F-16 aircraft for which it has already received cash payments. However, no restrictions have been slapped on India despite the confirmation about the presence of nuclear weapons in its arsenals and its development of missiles that are capable of carrying nuclear weapons. Instead, India is being given assistance in the field of defense research and production and is being provided with equipment that can be used for developing nuclear weapons.

The New Delhi-based U.S. ambassador's arrival in Pakistan is a part of the U.S. efforts to achieve the aforementioned two objectives. The U.S. envoy's meetings with senior Indian officials before his departure from New Delhi for Islamabad and the fact that he was making this visit at the instruction of President Clinton clearly reflect that the United States is continuously striving to help resolve Kashmir dispute in accordance with its "own perspective" despite the Indian rejection of the U.S. offer of mediation on Kashmir. We fear Washington is preparing to make certain moves in the context of Kashmir, which are solely aimed at benefiting India. However, we consider it necessary to tell the United States that the Pakistani people will not accept any solution of the Kashmir dispute that is against the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

We would like to caution the Benazir government to remain wary of both Indian and the U.S. maneuvers. The Pakistani people are also aware of the efforts quietly being made by Washington to achieve "Pakistan-India compromise" on nuclear program and Kashmir. The government must not accept any U.S. proposal — forwarded through quiet diplomacy, "track two diplomacy," or through any means — which is against Pakistan's national stand. Pakistan should not repeat the mistake of capping its nuclear program by freezing its missile development program nor should it deviate from its old stand on Kashmir. In the wake of the Charar Sharif incident, it has become all the more necessary for the government to remain alert. It would be better for the prime minister to explain the new U.S. efforts to the Pakistani people. This will strengthen her in effectively countering the United States, Indian maneuvers, and Washington's pressures.

Bhutto To Address Nation on Situation in Kashmir

BK1505041295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A special cabinet meeting in Islamabad last night considered the situation arising out of the desecration and destruction of the shrine of Hazrat Nuruddin Wali and an adjacent mosque at Charar Sharif in occupied Kashmir by Indian troops. The meeting chaired by Prime Minister Mrs. Benazir Bhutto decided to observe May 19 as protest day all over the country to mourn the tragic incident of Charar Sharif.

The cabinet meeting also decided that protest rallies will be taken out in all cities and towns of the country and Azad Kashmir. The chief ministers will lead the rallies in the provincial capitals and ghaibana namaz-i-janaza [funeral prayer in absentia] will be offered for the martyrs of Charar Sharif after Juma [Friday] prayers. The national flag will fly at half mast.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will address the nation on Thursday [18 May] next. The cabinet decided to send special envoys to Muslim and some European countries to apprise them of the situation in occupied Kashmir. Eminent political and religious leaders will be sent to different organizations and seats of learning to draw their attentions to the tragedy. It was decided to send letters to human rights organizations of the world to raise voice against the dastardly acts of terrorism by Indian forces.

The prime minister will address letters to OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] heads of state expressing the feelings of the people hurt over the incident. The cabinet decided to seek the meeting of the joint parliamentary committee on Kashmir to present the unified stance in view of increased repression against Kashmiri Muslims by Indian occupation forces.

Parties Announce Nationwide Protests Over Kashmir

BK1505082995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The nation continues to condemn the desecration and demolition of the shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Nuruddin Wali and adjacent mosque in Charar Sharif in occupied Kashmir by Indian troops. The PML [Pakistan Muslim League]-Nawaz group held a demonstration in Islamabad this morning to express their anger over the tragedy. The opposition leaders, Senator Raja Mohammad Zaffarul Haq and Mr. Gauhar

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Ayub Khan, condemned the desecration and destruction of the shrine and massive killings of the innocent Kashmiri people in the adjoining areas by occupation forces. They called for a joint sitting of the parliament to express their solidarity with the cause of the Kashmiri people. They said the threats of [India's Minister of State for Home] Mr. Rajesh Pilot against Azad Kashmir will be foiled with full force by a united Pakistani nation.

The head of the Mill Yakjaheti [National Solidarity] Council, Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, has also condemned the sacrilege of the dargah [shrine] by the Indian troops.

In Abbottabad, the Union of Journalists brought out a protest procession against the destruction of the holy shrine by the Indian troops.

The Jamaat-i-Islami has announced to launch a series of protest demonstrations throughout the country from Thursday [18 May] against the burning of the shrine. It appealed to the chairman of the parliamentary committee of Kashmir, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, to convene an all parties conference at the earliest to formulate a joint strategy on the issue.

The All Pakistan Clerks Association has also announced countrywide protest on Wednesday against the destruction and desecration of the holy shrine.

Kashmir, Government Officials Address Situation

Hurriyat Leader Condemns Actions

BK1205140095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mir Waiz Maulvi Omar Farooq, has strongly condemned the cowardly act of Indian forces to demolish dargah [shrine] of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali in Charar Sharif and has said that it is a clear signal to Kashmiris that Indian Government can go to any extent. In an interview on telephone from Srinagar, Mir Waiz appealed to the Muslim world to review their diplomatic relations with India on this preconsidered Indian move to destroy an important part of Muslim heritage.

[Begin Farooq's recording] The Hurriyat Conference strongly condemns this act of frustration and cowardice by the Indian Government and appeals to the international fraternity in general and Muslim countries in particular that this sacrilegious and heinous crime should not only be an eye-opener for all those peace-loving countries who take India on its face value, but are also working hard for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem. These countries should review their diplomatic and business relations with this faceless country and impress upon India to grant the people of Jammu and Kashmir their right of self-determination.

This sacred shrine has been set ablaze by the Indian forces under a preconsidered plan with multiple nefarious designs in view. They demolished a center of Islamic heritage, a fountainhead of spiritualism in Kashmir, to sow the seeds of dissension between various organizations engaged in the present movement and to send a clear signal to other people of Jammu and Kashmir that the Government of India can go to any extent to suppress the ongoing movement. The world community shall have to understand the laying of the siege [of Charar Sharif] by the Indian forces in its proper perspective. We appeal to the United Nations, Amnesty International, [International Committee of] Red Cross, and the Organization of Islamic Countries to take serious stock of the situation, and most important is that the plight of the people of the besieged town of Charar Sharif is not known. It is very difficult to understand that whether the people who are in Charar Sharif are facing grave problems of medicine and food and other essential commodities. We appeal to all brother nations to come forward at this point when the Government of India has come openly against Kashmiris and they are destroying all places, including the places of worships of Muslims of the valley. [end recording]

Minister on Elections, UN Resolutions

BK1405114495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the parliamentary Kashmir committee, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, has said the Mecca declaration adopted at the emergency meeting has rejected the so-called ploy of elections in the held Kashmir. Talking to newsmen in Multan airport today, on his arrival from Saudi Arabia after performing Hajj, he said the meeting attended by the leaders of the Indian held Kashmir also called for an emergency meeting of the OIC [Organization of Islamic Countries] to discuss the situation created in the wake of the tragic incident of Charar Sharif. Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan said the Kashmiri leaders were unanimous in their stand on the human rights violations in the held valley by Indian occupation forces and called for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir and allowing them the right of franchise to decide their own fate.

Meanwhile, talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, the federal minister for Kashmir affairs, Mr. Mohammad Afzal Khan, denounced the burning of Charar Sharif shrine.

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Foreign Minister on Indian 'Aggression'

BK1205155595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said Pakistan is deeply concerned about the desecration and destruction of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali Shrine and a mosque in Charar Sharif by the Indian occupation forces. Talking to APP in Kasur, he said that the entire Muslim community in general, and the Pakistani nation in particular, has vehemently condemned the destruction of the shrine in Charar Sharif. He said the Pakistan Government strongly condemns this shameful act by the Indian occupation forces. The Pakistan Government will raise this issue at a meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference in Rabat. The foreign minister said it adds to the grief that this tragedy took place on the day of 'Id al-Adha and the Indian forces massacred more than 100 people. He said this is not the first time that India has demolished a place of worship for a minority community. India also destroyed the Sikh Golden templ in Amritsar and late: demolished the Babri Mosque.

Referring to the recent threat against Pakistan by Rajesh Pilot, Indian minister of state for home, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said that at the South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation Summit in New Delhi, Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao had expressed resolve to establish peaceful and cordial relations between the two countries. He said it is surprising that India forgot its resolve so soon and it has now started issuing threats of aggression to Pakistan. The foreign minister said the people and Armed Forces of Pakistan will stand like a rock to defend their national security and sovereignty in the face of any foreign aggression. They will foil the Indian aggression because they have courage, determination, potential, and political will. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said that India has no course but to resolve the political issue of occupied Kashmir and start a dialogue with Pakistan in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. He expressed confidence that India will have to come to the negotiating table to solve the Kashmir issue.

Answering a question about the Indian plan to hold the so-called elections in occupied Kashmir, he said the elections charade will further strengthen the people's struggle against Indian domination.

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Indian Actions 'Serious Challenge'

BK1305095295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0200 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, leader of the opposition in National Assembly, has said the Charar Sharif incident has posed a serious challenge to the world conscience as well as the United Nations. In a statement from London, he condemned the incident at Charar Sharif saying this exposed Indian claims of secularism. Nawaz Sharif also condemned Indian announcements about holding the so-called elections in occupied Kashmir and said all Indian efforts in this regard will be thwarted by the Kashmiris.

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, chairman of the parliamentary committee on Kashmir, has said Pakistan is considering strong diplomatic steps against the desecration of the holy shrine at Charar Sharif in occupied Kashmir by Indian forces. In a message from Jedda, he said the incident clearly shows that India has failed to suppress the freedom movement in Kashmir despite the presence of its 600,000 troops. He advised India to see reason to agree to holding a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir.

The central leaders of the Milli Yakjaheti [National Solidarity] Council have condemned the tragic incident at Charar Sharif by the Indian troops. In a joint statement in Lahore, they described it as an act of vandalism and a challenge to the entire Muslim community.

President Comments on Nuclear Issue, India Visit

BK1105160095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari says Pakistan's stand on the nuclear issue has been accepted by the international community as a result of the country's successful foreign policy. He was addressing people from different walks of life who called on him in Choti Zeri in Dera Ghazi Khan today.

Referring to his visit to India, the president said that apart from attending the summit conference of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, he met with the Indian prime minister, other Indian leaders, and prominent journalists and apprised them of various matters. The Kashmir issue also came up for discussion.

The president said the country is now marching ahead on the path of stability and progress. Regarding the hike in the price of essential commodities, the president assured the people that the government is taking every possible step to overcome this problem. He asked the people to forge complete unity in their ranks and avoid sectarian tendencies. He urged religious scholars to play their role in promoting brotherhood among the people.

Sri Lanka

Government Planning Antirebel 'Course of Action'

BK1305130395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a hard-hitting statement delivered to Parliament, Deputy Defense Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte denounced the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] for resuming the war and said that the government was embarking on a course of action, the details of which must remain confidential. The prudence of the government's decisions and plans in this regard will be evident to the whole country shortly, Colonel Ratwatte assured. Dismissing what he called certain irresponsible and malicious canards, the minister declared we continue to retain mastery of the land, the seas, and the skies of our nation and our supply lines continue to be open. Meticulous attention has been given to the defense of the city of Colombo and all precautions have been taken to reinforce security with a view to preventing untoward incidents of any kind. The public is urged to refrain from giving credence to rumors and to remain calm.

In the course of his statement, Col. Ratwatte accused the Tigers of obstinacy and intransigence. The LTTE used every subterfuge and strained every sinew to obstruct the commencement of the political dialogue. Our repeated initiatives in this regard fell time and again on deaf ears, he said. International opinion was unanimously against what the LTTE had done, for the reasons that the Tigers had not even agreed to look at the government's political proposal before ending the truce. Col. Ratwatte appealed to the Tamils to join hands with the government and their brethren in the rest of the country to ensure the triumph of a political solution founded upon extensive devolution that would abundantly satisfy requirements of the nation. The minister said the government assured the people of Sri Lanka that it was in full control of the situation. He emphasized that it was not at war with any section of its people and unshaken in the conviction that the peace process is indispensable for the well-being of all Sri Lankans.

'Major Operations' Launched Against 'Terrorists'

BK1405112995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lanka Army special forces have launched major operations against terrorists. The operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defense said that special forces killed 43 terrorists during

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raids on terrorist jungle bases yesterday. The Army operating in the jungles of Kumpurupiddi, northwest of Trincomalee, confronted large groups of terrorists at a number of jungle bases. The troops were able to overrun all the temporary bases effectively. After successfully confronting two groups of terrorists, the operational headquarters said that 28 terrorists were killed in the fire fight while five soldiers died. About 75 terrorists were believed to have been wounded in the action.

The Army has also launched an offensive operation yesterday in the dense jungles of the North of (Punani) in the Eastern Province. The ground troops confirmed a minimum of 15 terrorists killed. The Army commandos suffered three casualties and 14 wounded. Security sources said that it was very likely that many of the injured terrorists could have died.

Rebels Renew Killings, Mar Buddhist Festival

BK1505103695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0957 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, May 15 (AFP) — Fierce fighting marred a major Buddhist festival in Sri Lanka Monday [15 May] with Tamil Tiger rebels killing 16 soldiers and civilians and losing 16 of their own fighters in a single battle, the military here said.

Gunmen from the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed and killed 13 soldiers and three fishermen at Kallarawa in the Trincomalee district as the Buddhist festival of Vesak entered its final day.

Monday's killings raised to 91 the number of people killed during the Vesak season, lasting the three consecutive holidays from Saturday to Monday, which celebrates the birth, enlightenment and passing away of the Buddha over 2,500 years ago.

The effects of fighting in the northern and eastern regions was felt in the capital Colombo, located on the west of the island, as fewer people turned out to celebrate Vesak.

Streets are usually choked with men, women and children who converge here to see huge structures depicting the life of the Buddha and illuminated in blue, yellow, red, white and orange, the colours of the Buddhist flag.

"There weren't the usual crowds last night because many people were afraid of possible bomb attacks," a police spokesman said. Security had been tightened since May 1, he said.

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A brief military statement claimed at least 16 LTTE gunmen were killed Monday in the firefight at Kallarawa, about 25 kilometers (16 miles) north of the former World War II British base of Trincomalee, as well as the 13 soldiers and three civilians.

Apart from the 32 killed there, another seven rebels were shot dead by the army in two gunbattles elsewhere on Monday, the military statement said. Fifty two people, including eight soldiers, had been killed on Saturday and Sunday.

There was no confirmation from the rebels of the military's claims of LTTE losses as the Tigers do not maintain an office here nor are they accessible in the island's north because there are no telephones in the region.

"The army soldiers were waiting to ambush the Tigers (at Kallarawa) when they became the victims. It looks like they were hopelessly outnumbered. The Tigers have also removed weapons from the soldiers," a police source said.

Three civilians, all fishermen from the coastal region, were caught in the crossfire and killed in the dawn gunbattle, a military spokesman said, adding they believed a few dozen rebels were involved in the attack.

The latest military casualties raised to 235 the number of government troopers killed by the LTTE since the group pulled out of a truce on April 19 and resumed their struggle for an independent homeland called Eelam.

Police and defence sources said the latest LTTE attack may have been designed to slow an army drive against LTTE posititions in the eastern jungles over the weekend.

Elite special forces commandos, backed by infantry soldiers, have been pounding three jungle bases of the LTTE since Saturday and claimed their first major success after three weeks of reverses.

The offensive was launched Saturday, a day after Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte, a member of the majority Sinhala Buddhist community, told parliament that the government would hit back at the wave of LTTE attacks.

The LTTE's decision to renew armed conflict would "certainly meet...with a military response," Ratwatte said, adding the government had "both the will and the capability" to fight the LTTE.

The Tigers, who are mainly Hindus, are leading a protracted guerrilla campaign to establish an independent homeland for the two million Tamil minority concentrated in the northern and eastern regions of the island.

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